



# Texas Association for Literacy Education



January 2018 - Literacy Strategy Spotlight

The Exemplary Reading Program Award is sponsored by the International Literacy Association to recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school). Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America. Each participating state and province can choose one winning school.

Leading up to the November application deadline, the Community Involvement Committee will share their favorite literacy practices to encourage the development and refinement of exemplary reading and language arts programs. We would love to have a Texas school win!

## Richard Peck's Ten Questions to Ask about a Novel

For the past three years, Matthew Panozzo has implemented these questions as a reader response activity complimenting his students' independent reading. He has implemented these questions in both the intermediate and secondary classroom settings.

1. What would this story be like if the main character were of the opposite sex?
2. Why is this story set where it is (not what is the setting)?
3. If you were to film this story, what characters would you eliminate if you couldn't use them all?
4. Would you film this story in black and white or in color? Explain your answer.
5. How is the main character different from you?
6. Why would or wouldn't this story make a good TV series?
7. What's one thing in this story that's happened to you?
8. Reread the first paragraph of Chapter 1. What's in it that makes you read on?
9. If you designed a new cover for this book, what would it look like?
10. What does the title tell you about the book? Does it tell the truth?

Can you think of other questions students can answer that would get them to think about their novels differently?

For more information on Richard Peck or ideas on how to integrate his novels into your curriculum, visit [www.Penguin.com/school-library](http://www.Penguin.com/school-library).

If you would like to share a literacy strategy or highlight something your school is doing, please email Matthew Panozzo, the Community Involvement Committee Director, at [talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com](mailto:talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com)

If your school is interested in applying for the International Literacy Association's Exemplary Reading Program Award, please visit their online [application](#) for more information.

#### References

Puffin Books. (n.d.) A curriculum guide to the books of award winning author Richard Peck. Retrieved from <http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/tl-guide-richard-peck.pdf>