



MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Texas Association for Literacy Education is to promote literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially and economically.

TALE OFFERS VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL LEARNING

While 2020 had its challenges, TALE was still able to do great things for literacy education in Texas! As we were not able to host an in-person conference this year, TALE moved to providing free virtual professional development sessions from leading experts in the field.

Beginning in the summer of 2020, TALE partnered with Dr. Kay Wijekumar and her team from Texas A&M University to provide professional development on building students' reading comprehension using text-structure instruction.

Then in the fall, Dr. Benita Brooks from Sam Houston State University led a professional learning session on

equity and literacy. Dr. Brooks reminded all attendees that it's important for teachers to get close in order to know our students' culture, history, and identity.

Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan led the next session on literacy instruction for English learners. In her session, Dr. Cardenas-Hagan described a comprehensive and evidence-based approach for teaching the foundational skills of literacy to English Learners and participants learned how to use cross-linguistic connections for the development of phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. More information can be found in her recent book *Literacy Foundations for English Learners*.

Finally, to close out 2020, Dr. Chase Young from Sam Houston State University hosted a session on the importance of oral reading fluency and effective fluency instruction for all students. During his session, Dr. Young provided participants with a multitude of resources and ideas for incorporating reading fluency instruction into the classroom in whole-group, small group, and one-on-one settings. Check out his website for access to some of the resources that he shared:

<http://www.thebestclass.org/>.

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R.E.A.D. @ TALE NEWSLETTER

TALE thanks these past presenters for their time and expertise! Further, TALE is continuing to offer free virtual professional development in 2021! We have three sessions coming up soon that you will not want to miss!



Join TALE for a series of virtual professional learning events this school year!



Fluid & Flexible: Utilizing your Literacy Coaching Skills in a Virtual Environment
 Monday, February 8th
 6:00-8:00 PM CST
 Dr. Bethanie Pletcher
 Associate Professor in Literacy in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Sciences Department at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi & President of the Standardized Literacy Professionals Special Interest Group of ILA





Writing Instruction for All Students
 Thursday, February 25th
 6:00-8:00 PM CST



Drs. Steve Graham & Karen Harris
Authors of Powerful Writing Strategies for ALL Students and Writing Better: Effective Strategies for Teaching Students with Learning Difficulties

Dr. Steve Graham is the Warner Professor in the Division of Leadership and Innovation in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University.
 Dr. Karen Harris is the Mary Emily Warner Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University.





What Teachers Need to Know About Dyslexia
 Wednesday, April 14th
 6:00-8:00 PM CST
 Dr. Emily Dean
 Associate Professor of Education, M.Ed. Reading Program Director, and Director of the Houston-Lantrip Center for Literacy and Learning at Hardin-Simmons University.

Register now for one event or all of them at <http://tiny.cc/TALEPD>
Participants must be a TALE member to receive CEU credit.
Join TALE at www.texasreaders.org

Registration Link: <http://tiny.cc/TALEPD>

PD Reflection Form: <https://forms.gle/XZkeSFicS5iVj2Mt8>

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Happy 2021 TALE Members! As we embark on this new year, I want to take a moment to thank all of the Texas educators who have been committed and worked tirelessly to serve students across the state. I also want to thank all of the TALE board members, committee directors, editors, and members who have volunteered their time to ensure that TALE continues to embody our mission of promoting literacy that will enhance the lives of all Texas citizens personally, socially, and economically.

While 2020 had its challenges, TALE was still able to do great things for literacy education in Texas! As we were not able to host an in-person conference this year, TALE moved to providing free virtual professional development sessions from leading experts in the field.

TALE is continuing to offer free virtual professional development in 2021! We have three sessions coming up soon that you will not want to miss! As with past sessions, all TALE members will receive CEU credit for attendance. Reserve your spot now at <http://tiny.cc/TALEPD>.

I am excited to watch TALE continue to grow and serve Texas literacy educators in 2021. I would like to encourage all our members to support TALE's mission and vision by:

- Inviting your colleagues to join TALE
- Collaborating with educators across the state by joining one of our committees
- Building up our literacy community by sharing your insights and innovation
- Joining us for one or more of our virtual PD events this spring
- Consider submitting a publication to our peer-reviewed journal, Texas Journal of Literacy Education, or the TALE Yearbook

Also, please stay connected to TALE by following us on Twitter @TXLiteracyED, on Instagram @txliteracyed, and like us on Facebook @TexasReaders. Thank you for being a member of TALE!

Alida Hudson
TALE Chair

JOIN US!

tale@texasreaders.org

Be sure to visit us on our social media pages as well as our website!

[TALE Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter - @TXLiteracyEd](#)

[Instagram - @txliteracyed](#)

Publications:

[Texas Journal of Literacy Education](#)

[Yearbook](#)

TALE



LITERACY IN PRACTICE

What are you doing in the literacy world? We want to know!

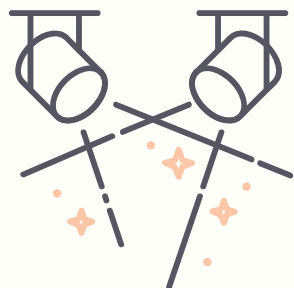
Literacy in Practice is a chance for TALE Members to share the work they are doing in the field of literacy out in the real world. Each newsletter will feature articles by educators for educators, giving you the opportunity to learn from one another!

If you wish to contribute an article, please email it to
tale.newsletter@texasreaders.org

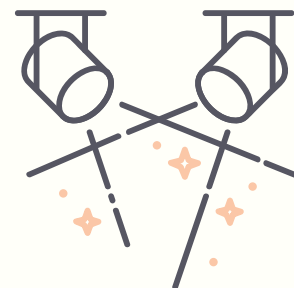
Submission Requirements:

- One page, single spaced, size 12 font.
- Anecdotal and informal in nature. More formal papers may be submitted to the **[TJLE Journal](#)**.
- Include pictures (optional).

Due Date: April 21, 2021



TALE MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Bethanie Pletcher Corpus Christi, TX

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
THE BARBARA G. SILVERMAN
ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN
LITERACY IN THE
CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION,
AND LEARNING SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY -
CORPUS CHRISTI

What degrees do you hold?

I earned an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction: Reading, Language Arts, and Literature at the University of Houston in 2013, a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction (Reading) at the University of Texas at Austin, and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at the University of Houston.

How are you involved with TALE?

I have attended and presented at TALE conferences since 2015 and have published articles in the Texas Journal of Literacy Education. I also served as an editor for TJLE for three years. Recently, I participated in a virtual book study initiated by TALE.

What is your literacy vision?

My passion is to help children become life readers by placing engaging books in their hands and arming their teachers with techniques to foster a love for reading through these books. I have carried out my research agenda through my work with undergraduate and graduate students, colleagues, and teachers and children in five local schools. I spend time in classrooms as a literacy consultant. Through these experiences, I bring to my research agenda observations about how young children "join the literacy club" (Smith, 1988) and how teachers facilitate this process.

What is something in your life you are most proud of?

Three years ago, I initiated an in-school tutorial program, IHEART (Islanders Helping the Early Acceleration of Readers Together), at Kennedy Elementary School in West Oso ISD. The mission of the program is to provide children with early reading intervention, through research-based instruction, and to give teacher candidates opportunities to implement strategies learned in their reading courses. Due to the pandemic, a colleague and I have assisted the children by pairing them with teacher candidates in a virtual learning environment. This has been challenging, but extremely rewarding for the children and our undergraduate students.

Here's a short video highlighting this work:

<https://animoto.com/play/nixOadinUf7t7bgnD1FreQ>

What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?

Read about literacy instruction. Narrow down to a few things you are most intrigued about as you work with youngsters and teachers since there is so much available literature and it can be overwhelming. Also, observe children and teachers as much as you can, including yourself! Don't be afraid to record your teaching and analyze the videos and invite peers to analyze them - this is the best form of professional development.



Rebecca Loera Bryan, TX

FIRST GRADE
TEACHER

What degrees do you hold?

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Pre-K-6; Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis in Reading and Literacy (both degrees from Texas A&M -- Whoop!)

How are you involved with TALE?

During my Texas A&M Masters program I became friends with TALE's chair, Alida Hudson, and ever since she has always encouraged me to be a literacy advocate for students -- this included introducing me to TALE! I first attended the 2019 TALE Conference where I learned an incredible amount of research-based practices and I have continued to attend online workshops during the pandemic.

What is your literacy vision?

Literacy is a human right. It is my literacy vision to provide all children the highest quality, evidence-based teaching regardless of socio-economic background or learning differences in order to help them access their full potentials; to do this, it is imperative to also empower teachers with knowledge of effective reading instruction. With the right reading interventions and opportunities for relevant preparation of educators, every child can learn how to read and write.

What is something in your life you are most proud of?

As the pandemic shut down my first year of teaching and continues into my second year, I am proud to be a teacher: a consistent force for my students during these difficult times. I am also proud of achieving my goal for the Reading Specialist certification so that I can have bigger impact in the literacy world.

What words of advice would you offer to other literacy leaders?

Whether you are a director at the district level, a reading specialist or a classroom teacher as I am, we are all literacy leaders. The best leaders also continue to be learners. Continue to seek out evidence-based strategies, be open to trying something new you have learned, and be loud about best literacy practices to ensure impact on student success.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Update

TALE membership is currently 607 active members. If you have your account set up to auto renew with your credit card, please be sure to update your account when your card expires. Your account can be accessed at texasreaders.org under "More" and then the "Members" tab. Membership is \$10 annually. Please encourage your colleagues to join TALE!

Questions? Email us at tale@texasreaders.org.

Community Involvement Committee

While partnering with Harris County Department of Education, we were able to give three FREE conference registrations to the Garcia Early Education Winter Conference happening Saturday, January 30th. Congrats to winners Sara, Katina, and Dianna! Committee members Dr. Tara Wilson, Melina Lucko, and Brandy Alexander are completing an updated parent resource for elementary literacy. If interested in giving feedback, please contact the committee at tale.community@texasreaders.org

Educator Empowerment Committee

The TALE Educator Empowerment Committee is excited to continue our summer book study and begin our new initiative "Literacy Quick Tip" this year. We would love to welcome new members this year. If you are interested in joining the Educator Empowerment committee, please complete this membership form [here](#). If you have suggestions for topics to focus on during our webinars or would like to recommend books to use during our book study, let us know by emailing tale.empowerment@texasreaders.org.

Local Councils Committee

Looking for a way to demonstrate your leadership skills in your community? Why not start a local or special interest council in your area? The purpose of local and special interest councils is to collaborate with colleagues, gain connections, and contribute voices and expertise to the global literacy movement. For more information email tale.localcouncils@texasreaders.org.

Contact Us



tale@texasreaders.org

Committees:

Advocacy Development
tale.advocacy@texasreaders.org

Community Involvement
tale.community@texasreaders.org

Educator Empowerment
tale.empowerment@texasreaders.org

Social Media Committee
tale.socialmedia@texasreaders.org

Membership Committee
tale@texasreaders.org

Local & Special Interest Councils:

Local Councils
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READ @ TALE
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Publications:

TALE Newsletter
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TALE Yearbook
tale.yearbook@texasreaders.org

TALE Journal
TJLEJournal@texasreaders.org

Conference Information:
tale.conference@texasreaders.org

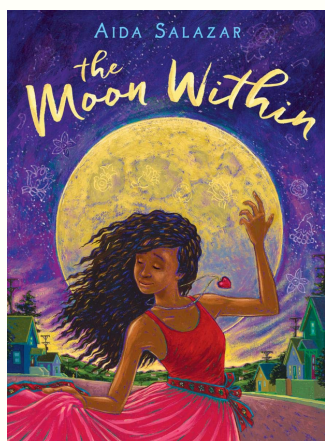


A SPECIAL INTEREST COMMITTEE OF THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR LITERACY EDUCATION (TALE),
THE STATE AFFILIATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION.

Hello Collaborators!

This past semester has presented various challenges between COVID-19 and tension surrounding the presidential election. READ@TALE strives to support the needs of all students no matter their background. In an effort to support students across the state of Texas, we have chosen to support teachers in this trying time by collecting resources, sharing novel recommendations, and helping each other keep our candles lit.

One book we've talked about this past semester was Aida Salazar's novel in verse "The Moon Within". Below are some insights from our board:



"'The Moon Within' is the tale of a young woman coming into her womanhood interspersed with the inner turmoil a teenage girl navigates crushes, her family and cultural expectations, along with a beloved friend on the sexual spectrum. The poetic format flows in much the same way a teenage female brain does." - Ileana Jennings

"I loved reading this coming of age story that explored understanding and appreciating one's cultural identity but also provided a glimpse of what it's like to become an ally for our LGBTQ+ friends." - Matthew Panozzo-Schagene

In the spring, we will be hosting a virtual social for teachers to connect. Our hope is to provide a safe space where teachers can exchange insights and share resources that can help us in our individual schools. More information is to follow.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Whether you have a book you want to feature, a topic you want to learn about, or a perspective you want to bring to the discussion, we have multiple ways to get involved.

Sign-up on our website: <https://readattale.weebly.com/>

Email us at READatTALE@texasreaders.org

Follow us on Twitter at @READatTALE