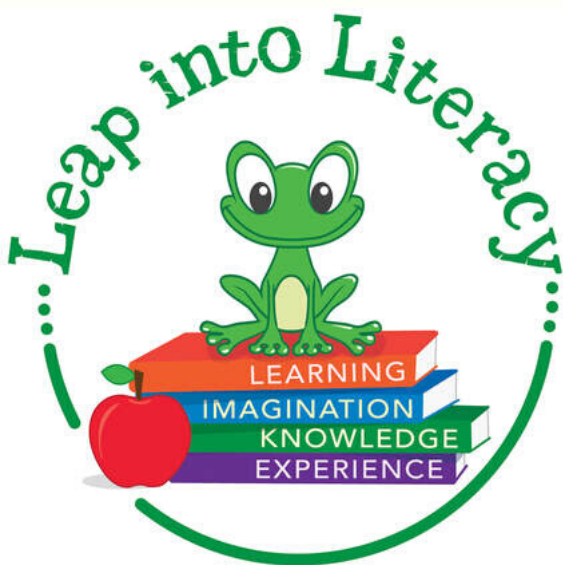




MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



Leap into Literacy! TALE 2020 Conference

Odessa Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
February 28 & 29, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

LEAP INTO LITERACY! TALE 2020 CONFERENCE

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

TALE MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Jessica Rickman
Jayne Latty

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUTHORS' CORNER

Book Review: *Mystery of the Naga at Night*
Kirsten Foti - Texas Woman's University

The 2020 conference will be held at the brand-new Odessa Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. This year's organizers, Dr. Shelly Landreth and Dr. Tara Wilson have been working diligently to bring you the best conference ever! There will be a wide variety of literacy topics presented via workshops, keynotes, round tables, posters and sessions. Keep checking our social media and website for any updates. If you have not registered, please do so.

Online registration ends on February 14th.

SOME of our key presenters are: Donalyn Miller, Chris Barton, Kylene Beers, Rob Probst, Rene Saldana, and Richard Gentry. Friday evening will be a social with live entertainment. This comes with your conference registration! Of course, there will be an exhibitor hall with more than 20 exhibitors! We have added a Bingo card game this year, so you will have the opportunity to win some fabulous door prizes!

See y'all in Odessa!

**The Texas Association for Literacy Education
PRESENTS**

2020 TALE Conference

**Registration for the 2020
Conference is now open!**

www.texasreaders.org/tale-conference.html

February 28 & 29

Odessa Marriott Hotel &
Conference Center



**Keynotes are
Donalyn Miller
(Friday 2/28)**

**Kylene Beers and Robert
Probst
(Saturday 2/29)**

**Regular registration ends on Feb. 14th.
There will be onsite registration for \$250.**

Full Conference rate: \$225

One day: \$150

Students full rate: \$100

Students One day rate: \$50

**Forms of payment accepted are
credit cards and purchase orders**

**Hosted by UTPB
College of Education**



**UT Permian
Basin.**

MORE INFO:

EMAIL: taleconference@gmail.com

Message from Our Chair - Malene Golding

I am immensely grateful to all the board members, committee directors, editors and other volunteers, who give of their time to ensure that our organization runs smoothly. Have you secured your registration and hotel accommodation for our annual conference? The conference affords you an opportunity to add literacy strategies to your literacy toolkit, hear from experts and practitioners, and most importantly network with educators across the state.

We will be the first major conference held at the brand-new, opulent Odessa Marriott and Conference Center. Come and join Donalyn Miller, Kylene Beers and a wide array of experts as we Leap into Literacy on February 28 and 29. If you haven't registered, there's still time to invest in your professional development!

Last fall, we had a substantial number of teachers participate in our Fall Book Study, Every Child a Super Reader. The Educator Empowerment Committee will be leading our Summer 2020 Book Study of This is Balanced Literacy, Grades K-6 by Doug Fisher, Nancy Frey, and Nancy Akhavan. The book will be available at the conference through QEP with a 20% discount. Details and other logistic information will be forthcoming on our website and through other communication as we get closer to launching the book study.

The new TEKS roll out for elementary and secondary is taking center stage this year. Many of us across the state and TALE have been actively supporting educators and stakeholders with the implementation of the new standards through our monthly TALE Twitter Talks. We have tackled Strand 1 and Strand 2, conducting robust conversations about intricacies of the standards, challenges facing our students and strategies for effective implementation. February will target the Response Skills strand, and in March, we will tackle Multi-Genres. I hope you all can join us and share your thinking.

As we embark on this new decade, I am excited about the future of literacy education in our state. In June, our state government passed House Bill 3, touted as sweeping reforms to school funding. One of the components of this bill addresses Reading Practices across the state. While we can debate all the essential components of high-quality reading instruction, it's promising that state leaders see the need to improve literacy outcomes for all students by providing more training for teachers.

How many time have we all said that we must address the foundational grades to ensure that our students become skilled readers and writers who are able to think critically? Well, the bill includes multiple reading initiatives which includes requirements that each teacher and principal in grades K-3 attend reading academies by 2021-2022. Additionally, districts must prioritize placing highly effective teachers in K-2 classrooms, among other things. We will be here to support all members through these proposed changes.

Our organization continues to grow and expand, we've added a SIC (Special Interest Committee), R. E. A. D. @TALE, which stands for Really Engage and Accept Diversity. This committee provides a platform and shares resources to support the needs of all students and teachers in Texas no matter their background. We also have a few local councils sprouting up in Dallas and Houston. If you would like to form a local council, please look for more information on our website.

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! I hope to see you all at the TALE Conference at the end of the month.

Sincerely,
Malene Golding, M. Ed.

JOIN US!

talemembership@gmail.com

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

[TALE Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter - @TXLiteracyEd](#)

[Instagram - @txliteracyed](#)

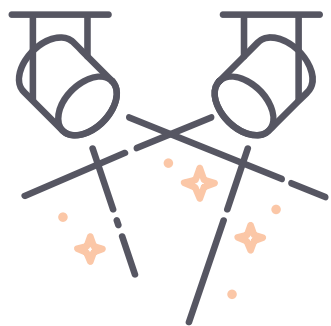
Publications:

[Texas Journal of Literacy Education](#)

[Yearbook](#)

TALE

TALE Member Spotlight



Jessica Rickman
Odessa, TX

Recipient of the Leadership in Literacy Award

My name is Jessica Rickman and I am currently the principal at Dr. Lee Buice Elementary school in Odessa, TX. I began my educational career here in Odessa, and graduated from Permian High School. I went on to Texas Tech University where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies, and then a Master's degree in Education. I then earned another Master's degree at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Education Counseling. I have been in Ector County ISD for 12 years. I started here as a teacher, then moved to a counseling position, then assistant principal, and most recently principal. I was assistant principal when the school opened, and together with the principal at the time, Alicia Press, began a vision for the school that had literacy and 21st century learning at the forefront. I feel extremely blessed to lead this amazing school alongside excellent teachers and staff!



Jayne Latty
Dallas, TX

What is your occupation?

I'm a Texas certified educator, creator of First Words Fast, and literacy advocate for any and every child.

What degrees do you hold?

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies.

How are you involved with TALE?

TALE has been an incredible resource and support throughout the development of First Words Fast to help ensure that it is a powerful tool for not just growing proficient readers, but lifelong lovers of reading and learning. We are also presenting a Workshop at TALE 2020 to share this innovative and fun phonics program based on a next generation sight word list, as well as a Research Poster presentation of the extraordinary results of a pilot conducted in 4 Montego Bay, Jamaica schools and in a Dallas, Texas school.

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

Teaching in today's culture can be challenging. I think it's imperative to stay connected to what attracted you to education and reaffirm that motivation often to guide you in what's best for yourself and your students.

Want to contribute to the newsletter?

Book Reviews:

Send book reviews no later than April 21, 2020.

TALE Member Spotlight:

Nominations due no later than April 21, 2020.

NEW! Student Showcase:

Show off the work your students are doing by submitting their work for publication! All work must be submitted with a consent form. All work for the Spring newsletter is due April 21, 2020.

[Student Work Consent Form](#)

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:
talnewsletter@gmail.com

Use newsletter submission section as the subject line.

[Click here to read more!](#)

Reports

Membership Committee

TALE membership is currently 402 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 the "Members" tab. Membership is \$10 annually. Please encourage your colleagues to join TALE!

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee has been working on our ILA Advocacy Award submission as well as ways to get information out to the membership about HB3. Our goal this year is to help our members discover and expand their knowledge of how to educate and advocate for self in the classroom.

The Advocacy Committee has also created a Twitter handle: @AdvocacyTale Please follow us. We plan to post updates on HB 3 videos, TALE information, as well as hints on ways to advocate for yourself as a teacher and as a literacy leader in your district.

We will be hosting a round table as well as our annual meeting during the conference. You will also find our table in the exhibit hall. We hope to see you there.

A note from Raise Your Hand Texas:

Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation is excited to present **For the Future**, a series of candidate forums and town halls leading up to the 2020 primary election. With over 40 events taking place across the state, we hope you'll be able to find one near you! Every event will also be live streamed, with links accessible from Raise Your Hand's social media accounts.

These events will focus exclusively on public education issues and on candidates for the Texas Legislature, which plays a huge role in shaping the requirements and resources of every public school in our state.

Click the image to find an event near you:



Want to know more?



If you are interested in finding out more about what our committees are working on or if you want to join one of them, follow the links below and/or email the committee chair!

Advocacy Development

Director: Sara Ranzau

taleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com

Communication Committee

Director: Alida Hudson

alida.hudson13@gmail.com

Community Involvement

Director: Brandy Alexander

talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

Educator Empowerment

Director: Kristi Morale

tale.empowerment@gmail.com

Membership Development

Director: Jackie Ingram

talemembership@gmail.com

TAIR Grants & Awards

Director: Kathy Stephens

kathystephens@letu.edu

Educator Empowerment Committee

The Educator Empowerment Committee is gearing up for our Summer Book Study. We will read "This is Balanced Literacy, K-6" and discuss all the tips and tools you need to implement balanced literacy learning in the classroom. Registration will begin during the TALE conference and continue leading up to the summer. Updates for the book club and other events will be posted on TALE's website and on social media.

Are you interested in joining the Educator Empowerment committee? Or, do you have suggestions for topics to focus on during the webinars or recommended books to use during our book clubs? Let us know by emailing tale.empowerment@gmail.com.

Communications Committee

Don't forget about our #TALEtalks each month on Twitter! #TALEtalks take place once a month on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm -7:00pm CDT. Our upcoming topics include:

February: ELAR TEKS Strand 3: Response Skills

March: ELAR TEKS Strand 4: Multiple Genres

April: ELAR TEKS Strand 5: Author's Purpose

May: ELAR TEKS Strand 6: Composition

TALE is seeking scholarly article submissions for its peer-reviewed journal, the Texas Journal for Literacy Education (TJLE). Learn more details about responding to this call for submissions at talejournal.com Please spread the word about this excellent resource and opportunity for literacy educators!

Interested in a Local or Special Interest Council?

We are pleased to announce that there are 2 councils completing the final stages of the application process. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Dallas Literacy Council or R.E.A.D (Really Engage and Accept Diversity), you can email them to get more information. You just have to be a member of T.A.L.E. to be a member.

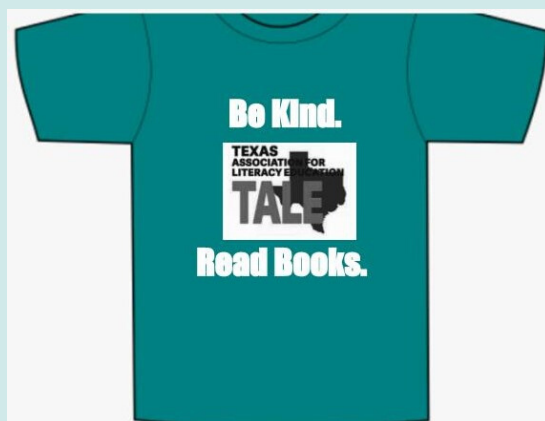
Dallas Literacy Council email -dallasliteracycouncil@gmail.com

R.E.A.D email -readattale@gmail.com

We hope to get local and special interest councils around the state of Texas. If you are interested in creating a local or special interest council in your area, please email talelocalcouncils@gmail.com.

Community Involvement Committee

We are excited that sales have started for our NEW TALE t-shirt that participants are invited to wear on Day 2 of Conference in a #TEALoutTALE campaign. "Wear teal to show you're a dedicated and passionate Teacher, Educator, Advocate, and Learner!" We will send the order off to the printing company on February 1st and have some extras to sell at the event for \$15.00. If you can't make conference this year, don't fret! Later this summer, the committee will be doing mail-out orders (at an additional cost) for those that would like a shirt but can't make it to Odessa this year.



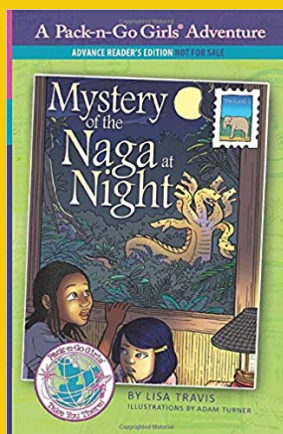
We will be starting our Conference Book Drive next. We are supporting Books in the Basin and will be asking for new or gently used books as well as monetary donations made while signing up for conference. This year the organization has elected not set up an Amazon Wish List so we will only be able to collect books and/or payment through the conference website.

Authors' Corner

Mystery of the Naga at Night - Lisa Travis

Reviewed by: Kirsten Foti

Texas Woman's University



The *Mystery of the Naga at Night* takes young readers (book is recommended for ages 6-9) on an adventure in Thailand. Jess, an American girl, and Nong May, a Thai girl, volunteer at a hill tribe village school, helping students with English and math skills. One night, Jess discovers the mythological Naga, a seven-headed snake, creeping through the jungle outside of her bedroom window. Jess and Nong May are swept into the mystery of why the Naga has appeared, leading to an even bigger mystery.

The story is an easy read, written in simplistic language and syntax for young readers. Each chapter introduces an element of Thai culture - for example, greetings, school, games, mythology - that are weaved into the overall plot. There are simple comparisons and contrasts between American and Thai culture that help readers make connections to new learning.

[To continue reading, click here.](#)