Sharon O'Neal is an Associate Professor at Texas State University - San Marcos. She holds a B.S. degree in Secondary Education and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Texas at Austin. She received a Master of Arts in Reading Education from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her current research interests include reader response, young adult and children's literature, early childhood literacy development and rural education. She has worked as a public school teacher at both secondary and elementary levels.