

Texas Association for Literacy Education Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

Editor: [Sara Ranzau](#)



INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

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.



The 2018 TALE Conference panel of authors. From left to right: (Top) Brad Womack, Dr. Laurie Sharp, and Dr. Roberta Raymond; (Bottom) Van Garrett, Ruth Culham, John Erikson, Anita Howard, Kimberly Willis Holt, René Saldaña, Jr.

A Message from Our Chair – [Laurie Sharp](#)

As the 2017-2018 fiscal year comes to a close, I want to thank all TALE members for their engagement and support of TALE. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as President/Chair this year, and I look forward to the continued growth of TALE in years to come.

ILA Update

The IRA/ILA transition is finally complete! TALE opted to be a fully affiliated state council in Texas with the official name: TALE: Texas Association for Literacy Education, Inc. Over the next few months, we will be updating our logo, website, and other communication materials with the branding tools provided by ILA.

ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals (Standards 2017)* are currently available! These standards delineate the criteria for preparation programs to develop and evaluate the preparation of literacy professionals within the following five categories:

- Specialized Literacy Professionals (reading/literacy specialist, literacy coach, literacy coordinator/supervisor)
- Classroom Teachers (pre-K/primary, elementary/intermediate, middle/high school)
- Principals
- Teacher Educators
- Literacy Partners

You may obtain your copy of *Standards 2017* at: <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-for-the-preparation-of-literacy-professionals-2017>

Also, please make plans to attend the ILA 2018 Conference July 20-23, 2018 in Austin, Texas! There are so many amazing events, such as EdCamp Literacy and Children's Literature Day. Preservice teachers receive FREE core conference registration, so please share this opportunity with literacy teacher educators and preservice teachers in your personal and professional network. More information and the link for registration are available at: <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/conference>

Finally, to better meet the needs of conference attendees, there will be changes to future ILA annual conference events. Beginning with ILA 2019, the conference moves from July to October. The event will also shift from a Friday start date to a Thursday start date. ILA 2019 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Finish Laurie's Message Here: <https://goo.gl/Exh3gf>



Social Media:
[TALE Facebook Page](#)



[TALE Twitter](#)
[@TXLiteracyEd](#)



TALE Website
www.texasreaders.org

Publications:
[TALE Journal](#)
[TALE Yearbook](#)

Contacts:
talemembership@gmail.com
taleconference@gmail.com

Join us!

Welcome New Board Members!

[Dr. Rebekah Piper](#) –
 TALE Secretary

[Matt Panozzo](#) –
 TALE At-Large Director

[Dr. Kelli Bippert](#) –
 TALE At-Large Director

A Lesson for Your Consideration

Adam Whitaker – Cedar Hill ISD, Dallas

Many times, when I discuss writing in my classroom I am typically met with the following statements: “I am not good at writing” or “I can never think of anything to write”. Tired of this response, I wanted to change students’ perceptions about writing and provide “opportunities for students’ voices, perspectives, and experiences to become text” (Winn & Johnson, 2011, p.44). To achieve this, Winn and Johnson (2011) explained the importance of using culturally relevant writing instruction in the ELA classroom. For the authors, this process involved:

Creating a Playlist-reflecting about the genre, curriculum, and subject matter and connecting the writing task to the standards that students must master.

Managing Content-providing students literature, media, and examples to inform their writing.

Sync-providing opportunities for student and teacher feedback to improve student writing.

Share your Music-providing opportunities for students to perform their writing.

Finish reading about the lesson: <https://goo.gl/PSmXp2>

A Thank You from Dr. Rosalind Horowitz



Since Dr. Horowitz was unable to accept her award in person at conference, she sent a video. See what she said here: <https://goo.gl/fDMrrs>

TALE Member Spotlight!



**Slimane
Aboukacem**

What is your occupation?

I am a doctoral student, a research assistant, and a co-teacher of literacy classes.

What degrees do you hold? I hold a Bachelor of Art in English language pedagogy, a Master of Art in applied linguistics, a Degree of Higher Studies in Management, and working on my Masters of Business Administration in Marketing.

How are you involved with TALE? I have presented at TALE and also served as a conference proposals reviewer.

What is your literacy vision? My vision of literacy is that of a core brick in building one's life skills. Everything ties back to literacy from social sciences, humanities, to sciences and health care.

What is something in your life you are most proud of? I am proud of being able to climb the ladder from a tiny community, school as I grew up in Algeria, North Africa, to Sam Houston State University in Texas and that I won multiple grants and fellowships such as the International Innovation fund and the Fulbright scholarship.

See Slimane's Words of Advice to Literacy Leaders here:

goo.gl/idEeNz



**Lori
McLaughlin**

What is your occupation?

School librarian.

What degrees do you hold?

Ed.D. from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; Dissertation title: *Exploring Teacher use of Technology in the Classroom and Perceptions of their Pre-service Training*. Master of Science; Master of Education; Bachelor of Education

How are you involved with TALE?

I have been a member of TALE for only a few years, but it has been a pleasure to meet and collaborate with fellow educators who champion literacy. I have had the honor of working on the yearbook publications by reviewing submissions, editing articles, and designing the cover of the latest edition. I have presented sessions at past conferences on topics such as book clubs and graphic novels. I also served on the Jack Cassidy Award committee.

What is your literacy vision?

That all students will develop effective reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills so they can be independent and critical thinkers who are productive and inspired citizens who use their unique abilities and interests.

What is something in your life you are most proud of? Although professional accolades make a person feel appreciated and encouraged, my most important accomplishment has been raising my four children. Parenting is the most rewarding job. I am thankful that my daughter and three sons have become adults who are hardworking, enjoy reading, and love the Lord.

See Lori's Words of Advice to Literacy Leaders here:

goo.gl/EKrQ2Y

Want to
contribute to the
newsletter?

Book Reviews:

Send book reviews no later than
June 21, 2018.

Additional Submissions:

Member Spotlight and Original
Works poetry, short stories, and
art work submission due dates
below.

**TALE Member
Spotlight:**

Nominations due no later than
July 21, 2018.

**TALE Member Original
Works:**

Original poems and short stories
due no later than July 21, 2018.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO:
talenewsletter@gmail.com

Use newsletter section as subject
line.

Committee Reports

Advocacy Development

The Advocacy Committee has been very busy over the last few months. We had so much fun planning an [Advocacy Roundtable](#) for the annual conference in February. Our friend Allan Griffin, a retired teacher/professional from Humble ISD, agreed to create a video for our committee, discussing advocacy etiquette, and the art of being a “designated irritant” when visiting congress people. According to Allan, it is imperative that when visiting congress people to discuss educational issues, that we are always polite and gracious - that goes without saying. However, one “designated irritant” in the group must always politely “push the issues” and let the congressperson know where the group or individuals stand on the educational issue of concern.

Additionally, our committee met at the conference, and made plans to create a proposal for the 2019 TALE Conference in Waco, Texas. We are excited about planning an entire session on how to get started as an advocate, whether an advocate for students, for families, for teachers, or about educational issues that affect students, families, and teachers.

Last, but certainly not least, we are pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, TALE will be awarded the ILA Advocacy Award, presented annually at the International Literacy Association conference. This award is given to organizations who demonstrate advocacy in a number of ways, such as community service, attending state board of education meetings, and writing articles for publication in journals and newsletters. Laurie Sharp, TALE President/Chair, will be accepting this award in Austin in July.

From the entire Advocacy Committee, have a wonderful summer!

Communication Committee

TALE is now on Instagram! Follow us @TXLITERACYED. Be sure to like, share, and tag TALE in your literacy related photos! Both the TALE Facebook page and TALE Twitter account are nearing 1,000 followers! Be sure to like and share our various social media platforms with your professional learning networks!

The Texas Journal of Literacy Educations (TJLE) is seeking a new editorial team to begin a three-year term in October 2018. TJLE is peer-reviewed journal publishes original research and practical articles that relate to the literacy education. The first issue of volume 7 on July 1, 2019. The Editor (or Co-Editors) of TJLE is appointed by the Texas Association of Literacy Education. Please [click here](#) for further information.

Authors who submitted manuscripts for the TALE Yearbook will be notified by the end of May. The TALE Yearbook is set to be published in August 2018.

Membership Development

TALE Membership is currently 329. Membership has grown by around 9% from this time last year - a true sign that literacy education is on the rise! 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 and includes access to webinars through our partnership with the [Center for the Collaborative Classroom](#). Stop by and see us at the TALE booth at the ILA Conference in Austin this July and encourage your colleagues to join TALE!



Want to Know More?

If you are interested in finding out more about what our committees are working on or joining one of them, follow the links below or email the committee chair!

[Advocacy Development](#)

Directors: Melinda Butler
tleadvocacydevelopment@gmail.com

[Communication Committee](#)

Director: Alida Hudson
Alida.hudson13@gmail.com

[Community Involvement](#)

Director: Matthew Panozzo
talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

[Educator Empowerment](#)

Director: Stephanie Grote-Garcia
tale.empowerment@gmail.com

[Membership Development](#)

Director: Jackie Ingram
talemembership@gmail.com

(Committee Reports Continued)

Community Involvement

Leaving Literacy Footprints across Texas 2017-2018

The Community Involvement Committee has had a very successful quarter! We are opening up two Little Free Libraries in the Houston area in the coming weeks.



We've also have a lot of success in promoting the ILA Exemplary Reading Program award through our Monthly Literacy Strategy Spotlight.

Lastly, our Twitter Chats have been an interactive way for TALE member to share strategies and resources. We are working on archiving these discussions to reference at a future time. Join us won't you?

Please contact us at any time: talecommunityinvolvement@gmail.com

Educator Empowerment

The TALE Educator Empowerment committee is transitioning to a new Director. TALE wants to thank Past-Director, Kathy Stephens, for her leadership. The incoming Director is Stephanie Grote-Garcia, an associate professor of Teacher Education at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. Additional members of committee include Lashera McElhany, Carolyn Davis, Stephanie Jenkins, Kathy Stephens, Tommye Hutson, Suhua Huang, Laurie Sharp, and Malene Golding.

Our committee has great plans for the 2018-2019 school year. Look for upcoming teacher book clubs, webinars for TALE members, and other opportunities for sharing literacy resources. Updates for these events will be posted on TALE's website and on social media.

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.

Original Works

Image courtesy of Clinton Hall – student of Dr. Sara Ranzau
Kerrville, TX



Want to contact our Original Works Authors?
[Rajeanna Gill Manross](#) – “Layers of Me”

Layers of Me

Rajeanna Gill Manross

Member from Perryton, TX

If you saw me on the street you
might think she’s so carefree.
However, there are many layers to
me.

What are the windows to the world
through which I see?

One is made from love
from the family that has surrounded
me like a tight-fitting glove.
One is made from the lessons I
learned
from my mother, the teacher who
taught me respect must be earned.
One is made from the courage I
saw
when others faced struggles as big
as mountains yet they refused to
withdraw.

Finish the poem: goo.gl/evaDYZ

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TALE

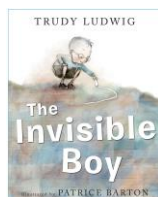
Texas Association for
Literacy Educations
www.texasreaders.org

Board Members:

Brad Womack, Malene Golding,
Laurie Sharp, Codi Freeman,
Rebekah Piper, Alida Hudson,
Jill Culmo, Jackie Ingram, Sonja
Gaddy, Kamisha Childs, Julie
Teel-Borders, Matthew Panozzo,
Kelli Bippert



What are you reading??



Reviewed by
[Lauren Smith](#)
Corpus Christi ISD

The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig is a brilliant reminder for both adults and children to be kind and inclusive. Ludwig opens her story with a seemingly simple question: “Can you see Brian, the invisible boy?” Young readers will be eager to answer the question by pointing to the illustrations where Brian is represented as a black and white sketch surrounded by a digitally colored world. As the story continues, readers witness Brian being overlooked and excluded from every day activities at his school.

Read the full review:
goo.gl/djgsdv



Reviewed by
[Melinda Butler](#)
Humble ISD

Miles Morales is certainly an unwilling, captivating, and unusual choice for Spider-Man. Bitten by a mutated spider that hitched a ride in his late Uncle Aaron’s experimental laboratory heist, Miles now possesses unwanted “spidey” super powers. Miles attends a high-end preparatory high school on a scholarship. and his parents scrimp and save to keep their son in room and board. Troublingly, Miles’ “spidey” super power senses have caused his suspension, and he is threatened with expulsion.

Read the full review:
goo.gl/CjrsCD