

Breakout Sessions

Children's Day March 19

Breakout Session #1 10:10-11:00 a.m.

Room 242

The Power of Using Culturally Relevant Texts to Engage Readers and Writers.

Presenter(s): Tanya Bradley and Emma Kyker, Marietta City Schools

Making literacy experiences more relevant to students' interests and everyday life by using current events improves proficiency in reading. The nature of reading and writing instruction is changing. We will look at how to use current events as an opportunity to bridge activities outside and inside the classroom, tune into the lives of students to find out what they think is relevant and why, and then use this information to design instruction and learning opportunities that will be more relevant to students.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, elementary, middle grades, writing

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 174

"Just A Picture Book??" Using Diverse Picture Books to Teach MORE Than Reading

Presenter(s): Stephanie Johnson, Dorsett Shoals Elementary-Douglas County Schools

Kimberly Haile, Burnett Elementary-Douglas County Schools

This instructional session uses diverse picture books to incorporate character education into the curriculum. Educators will be able to ensure students receive an integrated, coherent learning experience that contributes to their personal and academic learning and growth.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, elementary, digital literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

Room 462

Exploring Gender Representations and Gender Stereotypes in Children's Literature

Presenter(s): Stephanie Branson, University of South Florida

Tori Damjanovic, USF Preschool for Creative Learning

Aimee Frier, University of South Florida

This session will focus on gender identity and representation in children's literature, specifically picture books, and ideas on how to introduce and reinforce the concepts of gender identity and gender expression through stories and embodied reading responses.

Topic Strands: early childhood, diversity and inclusion, elementary

Targeted Audience: early childhood, diversity and inclusion, elementary

Room 248

No-Low-High Tech Storytelling

Presenter(s): Helen Maddox, Kennesaw State University

In this session learn ways to bring in No-Low-High Tech options for Storytelling into the classroom. From puppets to green screen, learn how to get your students or teams to move from author to screenplay creator to director and producer of a final product.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, writing, vocabulary, digital literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room 221

Mathematizing Our Read Alouds

Presenter(s): Becky Holden, Trinity School

Contexts, through literature, let students know what numbers represent and how they relate to each other. In this session, we will discover how read alouds can provide that context and use anticipation and note and noting to differentiate and for next steps planning.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 461

GALA presents "I Did It, So Can You!" - My Journey Through Self-Publication

Presenter(s): Davetta Grisby, Georgia Association of Literacy Advocates

Shannon Howrey, Kennesaw State University

Dale Loannides, Georgia Association of Literacy Advocates

Georgia Association of Literacy Advocates (GALA) will sponsor Stephanie Chadwick, a local Georgia author, who will discuss the process of topic selection, self-publishing and how it relates to her students' writing. GALA will introduce teachers to their services and projects that benefit educators and promote literacy.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary, writing

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public libraries, school librarians/media specialists

Room 182

Check Out STEM Stacker Curriculum Kits at Your Public Library

Presenter(s): Deborah Feanny, Cobb County Public Library System

Chinita Allen, Georgia Science Teachers Association

Educators can check out more than just books with their Cobb County Public Library System educator library card. Developed in partnership with the Georgia Science Teacher Association and UGA Extension Office, STEM Stacker kits feature literacy focused STEM lesson plans along with manipulatives needed to conduct a STEM class for K-5 students.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, writing, vocabulary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians/ school librarians/media specialists

Room 460***Using Graphic Text to Write a Personal Narrative***

Presenter(s): Amy Judd

Come write a personal narrative comic book style! Writing a personal narrative can be engaging for students when we incorporate graphic text features. In this session, participants will learn the structure of comics, gather ideas for quality graphic text to use with students, and create their own small moment comic.

Topic Strands: elementary, middle grades, writing

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

Room 225***The Read Aloud Experience: Engagement via Enhancement***

Presenter(s): Trey Veazey, The Walker School

Research tells us that reading aloud to any level audience can improve reading success, but the time for simply being a face behind a book has passed. In seeking to boost literacy development, educators need to enhance the read aloud experience; this session will help build a plan for doing so.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, middle grades

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room 300

Natasha Tarpley

** Special session for mentor teachers and student teachers

ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATIONS**Room 400*****SQ3R: An Effective Reading Method to Help Upper Elementary Students Interact with Informational Text***

Presenter(s): Angela Jones-Pringle, Gwinnett County Schools

SQ3R has been used by many college students over the years, but it is an effective comprehension and writing method that can help upper elementary school students build self-efficacy, self-regulation, and critical-thinking skills. The presenter's adapted method for upper elementary students is relevant and aligned to the GSE standards.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Teaching Kids About the World Through Picture Books

Presenter: Sucheta Rawal

Picture books based on true stories can have a long-term impact on young readers when it comes to how they perceive themselves in relation to the world. Discover books on diversity, culture and travel that can be integrated into your reading and global learning programs.

Topic Strands: Reading strategies/comprehension, Elementary, Diversity and Equity

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

Making Read Alouds Come Alive

Presenters: Katy Basch and Terri Koch, Kennesaw State University

This session will explore engaging literature selections and interactive experiences for primary classrooms. A focus on diverse, high-quality texts will be incorporated into this session. Pre-K- 2nd grade teachers who want to add to their familiarity of children's literature and enhance their engagement in reading should attend this session.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension,

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers,

Bon Appetit: Host a Book Tasting in Your Classroom!

Presenters: Pamela Mather

Offer your students a creative and engaging opportunity to expand their reading horizons by "tasting" a variety of books, and independently choosing high-interest literature to read in the classroom. Just add a chef's hat and apron, and voila! You have your very own "Book Bistro!"

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists, public librarians

Breakout Session #2 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Room 221

Interweaving Technology into Literacy

Presenter(s): Jen Shiers and Claudia Daniels, Cobb County School District

Participants will engage in juicy chatter around award-winning children's literature to foster teaching and learning. In addition, using instructional strategies, participants will take a hands-on dive into sequel narrative writing by using various collaborative tech tools.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, writing, digital literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 300***Differentiating in Literacy Using "Thinking Hats"***

Presenter(s): Mirette Carpenter, Lindsey Thompson, and Lauren Palace, Georgia College & State University

We've heard it before... "put on your thinking hat!" These thinking hats are different: green top hat, red sombrero, yellow cowboy hat, and more! "Thinking Hats" are a unique take on task cards: the colorful hats provide an effective literacy strategy that focuses on differentiation and fosters collaboration among students.

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, middle grades

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 460***Expanding Our Horizons: Including Black American Children's books into our Libraries and Book Lists***

Presenter(s): Wendy Harris and Raynice Jean-Sigur, Kennesaw State University

This interactive workshop will help classroom teachers, libraries, and school media personnel with better understanding the importance of including Black and African American Children's books into their classroom and learning environments. The presenters will share some important information about the availability and impact Black and African American Children's books have on child development and learning.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public libraries, school librarians/media specialists

Room 462***Good-Bye Book Reports: Multimodal Response to Children's Literature Exploring Difficult and Challenging Topics***

Presenter(s): Aimee Frier and Stephanie Branson, University of South Florida

Reading responses are traditionally paper-based, written responses. We advocate for the use of multimodal approaches to ensure students have the opportunity to express their understanding in multiple ways that mirror their out of school lives. We will demonstrate multimodal responses that encourage students to critically think about and respond to literature.

Topic Strands: Reading Strategies/Comprehension, Diversity and Equity, Elementary, Digital Literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public libraries, school librarians/media specialists

Room 248

Teaching Literacy Through Inquiry in a Personalized Learning Classroom

Presenter(s): Dr. Jerri Potts, Monica Hendricks, and Shoni Pittman, Katlysator Educational Solutions

Teachers have a difficult time personalizing reading curriculum and/or guided reading program. Teaching literacy through inquiry blends a personalized learning classroom with traditional guided reading practices. Instead of leveled readers, students could use inquiry to explore topics using valuable reading strategies.

Topic Strands: Reading Strategies/Comprehension, Writing, Vocabulary, Digital Literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media

Room 174

Using Literacy to Inspire and Spark Coding with Young Learners

Presenter(s): Marsha Harris, Trinity School

Coding is the new literacy of the 21st century. How might we be more intentional with our planning of content, task, and time to support our young learners in meaningful ways in the classroom? Literacy is the launching point for all that we do, including coding with children as young as Pre-K.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

Room 182

Mathematizing Children's Literature

Presenter(s): Jill Gough, Trinity School

What happens when we connect mathematics with reading and writing? How might we deepen understanding of numeracy using children's literature? What if we mathematize our read-aloud books to use them in math as well as Readers and Writers Workshop? What opportunities will teachers have to learn more about their readers, writers, and mathematicians?

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 461

Agency and Annotation: Close Reading in the Primary Grades

Presenter(s): Veronica Vital, Park Creek Elementary, Dalton Public Schools
Courtney Hitchens, Brookwood Elementary, Dalton Public Schools

Close reading is a strategy that can help young students read complex texts. This presentation will discuss research on vocabulary acquisition and comprehension. The presenters will outline a process for teaching close reading that can be implemented in primary classrooms. Instructional videos and student work samples will be included.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, vocabulary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

ROUNDTABLE PRESENTATIONS
Room 400

How do you “Picture” the Pictures in a Book?

Presenters: Stephanie Lindstrom and Krystal Richter, Henry County Schools
Natasha Cain, DeKalb County Schools

Our session will focus on interactive read alouds using picture books to build literacy development while using the arts to showcase student learning. We will share strategies for engaging students in text by relating it to their knowledge and experiences, making predictions, asking questions, and understanding characters’ feelings and thoughts. Attendees will engage in activities for integrating the arts in literacy development for K-2 learners.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, vocabular
Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Do You See Me? - Embracing Diversity in Children’s Books

Presenter: Felicia Lee

This session will focus on the importance of diversity and representation in children’s literature. During this time, we will have an interactive discussion about the benefits children gain from seeing images that they can identify with and what happens when diversity is not represented in the books children read.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary, diversity and equity, writing
Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists, public librarians

STEAM Starts from the Stacks

Presenters: Kate Burton, Trinity School

Understanding the importance of exposing young readers to STEAM concepts and experiences does not always mean we know where to start. This session will expose STEAM-y starters in books we know, love, and probably have on our shelves. Discover titles and ideas, and we’d love to hear your ideas, too!

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary
Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists, public librarians

Innovations for Creating and Sharing Digital Stories

Presenters: Helen Maddox, Debra Coffey, Kennesaw State University

Our presentation will open with a story and provide innovative ideas for storytelling. We will present creative options for storytelling that promote learning. We will demonstrate the use of a green screen, shadow puppets, and other innovations. Then we will provide opportunities to explore ideas for creating digital stories.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, digital literacy
Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

The Power of a Good Read Aloud book

Presenters: Alice Henry

When you find a book that transforms busy young learners into active learners, it is powerful. In my 30 plus years of teaching PreK-8, I was always amazed at the power of a good book.

Topic Strands: early childhood, diversity and equity, elementary, vocabulary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, school librarians/media specialists

Breakout Session #3 1:25 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Room 182

Beyond Mandated Screeners for Dyslexia: The Diagnostic and Prescriptive Teacher within a Framework of Literature

Presenter(s): Nora Schlesinger, Kennesaw State University

Briana Davis, University of Illinois at Chicago

The Senate Resolution 761 committee made three recommendations which will affect initial and post teacher certification. One recommendation is mandated school screening for all K students. Learn how to be diagnostic and prescriptive about phonological awareness and phonics instruction using children's literature.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room 174

Is This a Good Book for me? Answering the Oldest Question in the Library!

Presenter(s): Marla Hilburn, W.C. Abney Elementary

Angie Clower, Hiram Elementary School

We will look at a way to organize school library books and classroom library books so that students know right away if a book is a "good one" for them. Using the Lexile leveling system, we will show how we labeled and organized our elementary school libraries so that Pre-K-5th students and staff could find a book on their reading level all by themselves!

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary, reading strategies/comprehension

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public libraries, school librarians/media specialists

Room 460

Sparking Students' Love for Science with Storybooks

Presenter(s): Lauren Kane and Kate Burton, Trinity School

Want to spark interest in science? Looking for a great way to launch science lessons? Come to this session and learn how picture books can be used to ignite student curiosity and build background knowledge for science exploration.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room 221

Using Technology to Increase Reading Comprehension and Fluency

Presenter(s): Ashiya Glover-Hart, Erin Prince, Piedmont College

Technology, Reading Comprehension, and Reading Fluency! This presentation will highlight research-based strategies. Presenters will provide a list of free digital sites and programs to help increase your students reading fluency and comprehension.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, digital literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 248

New Horizons for Innovative Digital Storytelling

Presenter(s): Debra Coffey, Helen Maddox, Valicia Winfrey-Shearod, Kristen Kurth, Taylor Heath, Morgan Burkitt, Whitney Lott, Alaah Myers, Cheyenne House, Gracie Kelly, Isabel Adams, and Kristina Plummer, Kennesaw State University

We will share digital stories created during a children's literature class. Students who collaborated to design digital stories will share their stories and their tips for digital storytelling.

Topic Strands: early childhood, reading strategies/comprehension, elementary, digital literacy

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers

Room 462

New Favorites: Hot Off the Presses Picture Books for Integrating Social Studies and ELA, Grades K-5

Presenter(s): JoAnn Wood and Joy Hatcher, Georgia Department of Education

Explore some fresh titles and how they can spark powerful learning across the curriculum in this interactive session. Be prepared to be wowed and to share your own recent treasures!

Topic Strands: reading strategies/comprehension, diversity and equity, elementary, writing

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room 242

GALA presents "I Did It, So Can You!" – How to Publish Your Own Children's Book

Presenter(s): Davetta Grigsby, Dekalb County Schools
Shannon Howrey, Kennesaw State University

Georgia Association of Literacy Advocates (GALA) will sponsor Stephanie Chadwick, a local Georgia author, who will discuss the process of topic selection, self-publishing, and how it relates to her students' writing. GALA will introduce teachers to their services and projects that benefit educators and promote literacy.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary, writing

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public libraries, school librarians/media specialists

Room 461***Big Red READS: The Story of a Mobile Library***

Presenter(s): Alice Ensley, Dalton Public Schools

Big Red READS is a community bookmobile that works to ensure book access for all children. Begun in 2010, this initiative has distributed over 12, 000 books to students in the Dalton area. Topics for this session will include summer reading loss, fundraising and grant opportunities, and community engagement.

Topic Strands: early childhood, elementary, middle grades

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media spe`cialists

Room 225***Diversity in Children's Literature: How Arab Americans are Portrayed and Perceived in Children's Literature***

Presenter(s): Tiffany Grant, Katherine Cramer, Sydney Chassion, University of North Georgia

This presentation addresses the perceptions of Arab Americans throughout children's literature. It introduces a synthesis of research pertaining to various themes and stereotypes that misrepresent this group. Primarily, it will address the importance for educators to review multicultural literature for authenticity before sharing it with students.

Topic Strands: early childhood, diversity and equity, elementary

Targeted Audience: classroom teachers, public librarians, school librarians/media specialists

Room Number: 300

Matt de la Peña

** Special Session for mentor teachers and student teachers