

# Muirland Literacy Council

## Fall Newsletter Highlights

### Topic

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# WRSA Conference 2022

WSRA's 2022 conference, The Art of Literacy - Weaving Tapestries of Heart, Body and Soul will occur on February 3-5 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. The Keynote speakers are: Yolanda Sealey Ruiz, Carole Boston Weatherford, and Pat Zietlow Miller.

To find out more about the conference, please check out the conference video link. There will be an online version of the conference brochure coming soon as well.

If you decide to join us at the 2022 conference, there are links for registration as well as volunteering to introduce speakers. If you introduce speakers, or help out at the registration desk, Muirland will receive money to support bringing in speakers or our community service projects. Please consider volunteering if you are able to do that. Thank you!

[WSRA Website](#)

[WRSA Conference at a Glance Video](#)



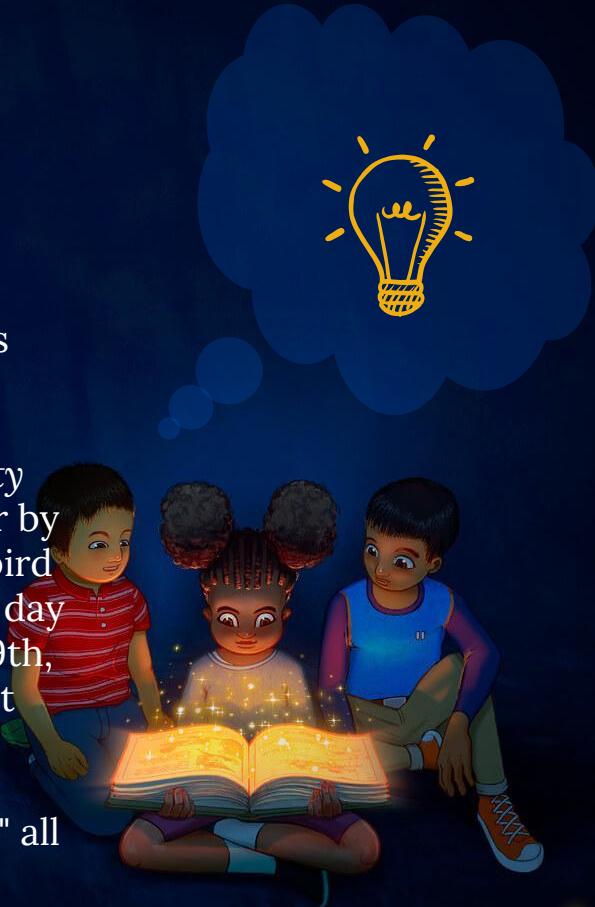


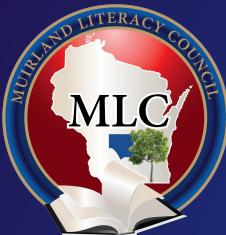
# Membership and Registration

The Muirland Literacy Council board members have been busy organizing meetings for the 2021-2022 school year. Our council has teamed up with MARC and

We are excited to Have Pernille Ripp discussing *Creating Community Spaces Centered on Reading Joy* on September 21. Be sure to register by September 19th to receive the early bird membership price. Early bird membership will run through September 19th which is also the last day to register for this event. Membership will be \$12.00 through the 19th, and \$15.00 after that. When you register, please make sure to select Muirland as your council so that your dues come to us.

Please let us know if you have any questions at all! We hope to "see" all of you on September 21st!





# Help Us Shine a Light on Muirland Members and More - Due November 1st

WSRA has several opportunities for members to nominate individuals for their efforts in promoting literacy.

Take a few minutes to fill out nomination forms online to recognize those who have made a difference.

Nomination forms are found online [wsra@wsra.org](mailto:wsra@wsra.org).

The following award categories are:

**Celebrate Literacy Individual Award** - Honors an individual for his/her significant contributions to literacy in their local council's community.

**Outstanding Service Award** - Celebrates a WRSA and local council member who significantly impacted WSRA. This individual is/has demonstrated leadership and is exceptionally generous in sharing time and talents to WSRA.

**Outstanding Administrator Award** - Honors an outstanding administrator in the field of literacy.

**Literacy in Technology Award** - Recognizes an individual for integrating technology to improve literacy. Candidate does not have to be a member of WSRA. Honoree receives a \$100 stipend.

**Friends of Literacy Honor Roll** - Recognizes a current or past member of WSRA who has served with distinction for 10 or more years.

**Council Recognition Award** - Celebrates a council that has been in existence for at least three years that promotes the goals of WSRA.

The **Pat Bricker Memorial Research Award** is a grant given annually by WSRA for classroom action research related to literacy. Up to \$2,000 is available depending on the nature of the study and funding needed. Along with the application, a proposal, a list of three to five references, and a budget should be included. Please limit application papers to a maximum of 4 pages.

There are two student scholarship awards: **Full-Time Undergraduate Student** and **Graduate Student**.

Both of these honorees will be awarded registration scholarships for the 3-day WSRA convention. Thursday and Friday night lodging will be provided if the honoree is willing to share with another recipient.

Please find time to recognize individuals who make a difference in the literary lives of others. By shining a light on their achievements, it may ignite the fires of others to follow in their footsteps. All nominations are due November 1st.



# Muirland Literacy Council Community Project

Let's just say that 2020 & 2021 were *not* the years we were expecting. Despite Covid 19 and not being able to meet as a group in person, Covid did not stop the important work of Muirland's community project. Many MLC members and friends in the community found themselves with lots of free time and a willingness to support children's literacy. Over the past year and a half, generous teachers and friends donated pillowcases, books, cake mix, frosting and candles for our Bedtime Book Bag and Birthday Book Bag projects. Muirland Literacy Council donated a total of 92 book bags to local food pantries during the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal for this year is to donate 150 book bags to the Baraboo and Hillsboro food pantries this year.

Could you help us spread the love of literacy and share essential items with local children? Here's how you can help:

- Bring two items to our November meeting: cake mix, birthday candles, frosting, toothpaste and toothbrush. You will receive an extra ticket for a door prize if you donate two items.
- Purchase an item from our Amazon wish list for the Muirland Literacy Council's community project. [MLC Community Project Amazon Wish List](#) Donated items will be set aside for our Bag the Books event.
- Sew pillowcases whenever it is convenient for you and bring them to the November meeting. [Pillowcase Tutorial](#) Contact Kelly Kroon [kkroon@wisheights.k12.wi.us](mailto:kkroon@wisheights.k12.wi.us) if you have any sewing questions.
- Contact Anne Malig [amalig@rsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:amalig@rsd.k12.wi.us) if you have any questions about the community project.





# Muirland Literacy Council Community Project Birthday & Bedtime Book Bag Data

| School Year      | Organization recipients  | Total Book Bags Donated by MLC |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 2018-2019        | Reedsburg Area Food Pantry   | 28                             |
| 2019-2020        | Reach Out Lodi Center  | 47                             |
| 2019-2020        | Sauk Prairie Food Pantry   | 25                             |
| 2020-2021        | Arlington Food Pantry  | 30                             |
| 2020-2021        | Poynette Food Pantry   | 32                             |
| 2020-2021        | Portage Food Pantry  | 30                             |
| <b>2021-2022</b> | <b>Goal: to donate 150 book bags to local food pantries in Baraboo &amp; Hillsboro</b> |                                |



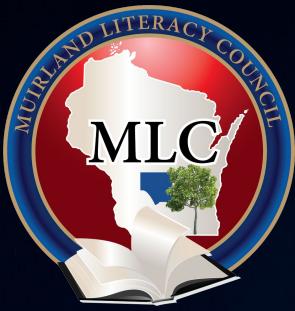
Each birthday book bag contains:

- cake mix, candles and frosting
- a new book
- pillowcase

The bedtime book bag contains:

- washcloth, soap and toothbrush
- pillowcase
- a new book





# Events for 2021-2022

November 11 - Mary Lou Harris-Manske - What's New and Some All-time Favorites in Children's Literature

January 19 - The Holocaust Education Resource Center

January 26 - Creating Community Spaces Centered in Reading Joy with Pernille Ripp (Webinar)

[Register here](#)

March 3 - Dr. McMurtry

**April 26 - KW Pendorf: Show Don't Tell Unlocking the Creative Writer's Mind**

**The Registration Form is Linked on the Date.**

**\*\*\*New this year. Make sure to click FINISH at the end of the registration process so that your registration is fully submitted. This could be confusing. If you get a confirmation email from WSRA, you have successfully registered.**





**PLEASE join us**

**January 26, 2022**

[Registration Link](#)



**Creating Community  
Spaces Centered in  
Reading Joy**

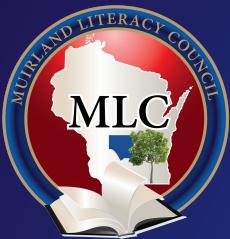
**Pernille Ripp**

**September 21, 2021 6:00 PM  
SW Zone Webinar**

Centering reading joy as a practice is nothing new, but how does the very environment we create also support this practice? How do we build sustainable collections that speak to all of our students? How do we know what to add to our classrooms? And how do we invite kids into using these spaces to support their own reading identity? Join educator and author, Pernille Ripp, as she discusses all this and more.

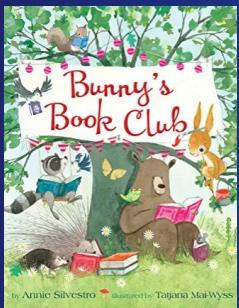
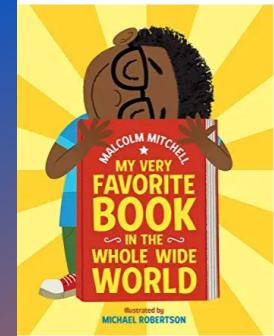
**Registration and Membership Information**

[Click here to register.](#) Please register by September 19th.  
Early Bird Membership dues - \$12.00 for the 2021-22 Program of Events.  
Join your local council - Muirland, MARC or South Kettle Moraine.



# Elementary Book Recommendations

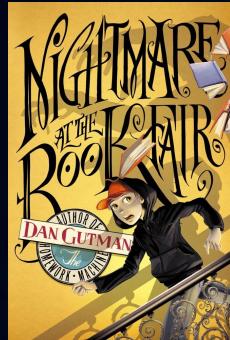
Author Malcolm Mitchell wrote *My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World* is a perfect book to share with reluctant readers. This book tells the story of Henley, a little boy who struggles with reading, as he tries to complete a homework assignment which requires him to put his struggles aside to find a book he loves. Malcolm shared his personal story to in an effort to help students know they are not alone in their struggles. Additionally, this book is perfect to help students understand the importance of how their determination can lead to perseverance.



*Bunny's Book Club* by Annie Silvestro is a wonderful tale about Bunny's nightly visits to the library celebrates the love of reading. Bunny loves to sit outside the library and listen to summer story time. When the weather gets cold and story time moves indoors, Bunny devises a plan to sneak into the library. The he is able to read any book Bunny chooses, but also takes piles of books home to enjoy. Once the word spreads of Bunny's books, everyone wants read books too. Bear, Porcupine, and more all want books to share and read again & again. But what happens when the librarian discovers Bunny and all his friends in the library. Will Bunny be without his beloved books once again?

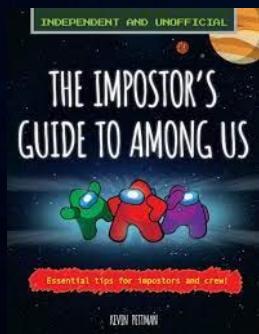


# Upper Elementary Book Recommendations



[Nightmare at the Book Fair](#) by Dan Gutman (2008)

While this book is not new, it is a great back to school read aloud when teaching genres. From horror, adventure, science fiction to fantasy and many more the chances are high to find a chapter a reader enjoys. If students liked the way a chapter was written, then they might like other books in that genre. Get kids talking about books by reading the [Nightmare at the Book Fair](#). by Dan Gutman.



[The Impostor's Guide to Among Us](#) Kevin Pettman (2021)  
If you can't beat them, join them. While the trendy Among Us game may be so 2020, [The Impostor's Guide to Among Us](#) was published this past spring and would make a great addition to any gamer's library.





# Young Adult Picture Book

## Outside, Inside by LeUyen Pham

I know what you must be thinking, “A picture book for middle school?” However, picture books can be a middle school or high school teacher’s best tool, and this book is no exception. Penny Kittle introduced me to this beautiful book when I attended a webinar that she led in July.

LeUyen Pham created a poignant look at the early days of the COVID-19 Pandemic with this picture book. She begins by showing what happened when everyone who was outside went inside. Then she takes some time to compare what was happening outside with what was going on inside. There is a blend of real life events as well as a narrative of the main character’s family.

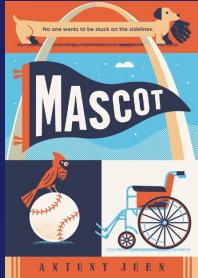
This picture book could be used at any grade level as a springboard for a discussion about the Pandemic and the early days of the lock down. I’m planning on using it in my classroom to foster both discussion and some type of quick write or maybe even a larger writing piece.





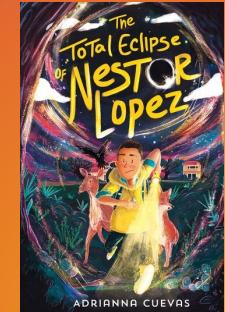
# Young Adult Book Recommendations

[Finding Junie Kim](#) is a combination of realistic and historical fiction. Present-day themes of growing up, friendship, and discrimination are interwoven with stories of survival during the Korean War. Junie's school is struck with racist graffiti and Junie herself deals with a racist bully on a daily basis. When she begins to interview her grandparents for a school project, she learns of the strength her family needed during the war and it helps her find her voice in the present day.



[Mascot](#) by Antony John is a realistic fiction book about moving forward. Noah survives a car crash that kills his father but his injuries require the use of a wheelchair. He used to be known for baseball and now he isn't sure what his identity is. He's mad about his lack of control over his current situation, but it isn't until his friends and neighbors recruit him to help them out that he realizes the power that he still has.

[The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez](#) is a fantasy novel with themes of helpfulness and trust. Nestor has the ability to speak to animals, but he tries desperately to keep this to himself and fit in as he moves around the country with his military family. With his dad on deployment he doesn't want to give his mother anything more to worry about. The family's latest move is to live with Nestor's grandmother, in his dad's childhood home. When strange things start happening to the local animals and his grandmother comes under suspicion, Nestor must decide whether he can trust his friends and share his secret to save the day.





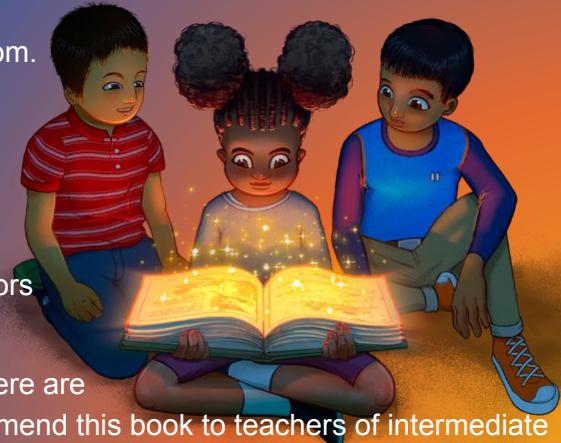
# Professional Book Recommendation

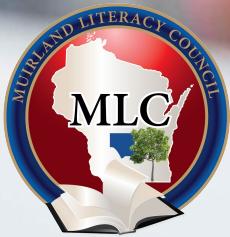
Lemov, D., Driggs, C., Woolway, E. (2016) *Reading Reconsidered: A Practical Guide to Rigorous Literacy Instruction*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Brand.

I started reading this book because it was handed to me by our middle/high school principal. When your principal hands you a book, that usually means you have to read it. It didn't take long for it to turn from a "have to read" to a "want to read." The authors start the text by addressing what they termed "The Core of the Core." In that section, they explored various different aspects of CCSS requirements, including text selection, close reading, and fiction and nonfiction texts. I found what the authors wrote on these subjects helped me add to what I already knew. For example, their discussion on "The Five Plagues of the Developing Reader," showed me some challenges our students face when reading that I hadn't thought about previously. The second part of the text addressed the fundamentals of reading. The authors included information on ways to help students read more and read better. They wrote about strategies for vocabulary instruction and how to design reading systems for your classroom. It was great to see that the authors supported read-alouds at all levels. Another thing I found helpful was the authors' discussion on interactive reading.

What I liked best about this book is how the authors incorporated writing during reading throughout the text. I have been a firm believer that writing needs to be an integral part of reading and reading comprehension, and this book reinforced that view. The fact that the authors included strategies of how to use writing in reading class was very helpful.

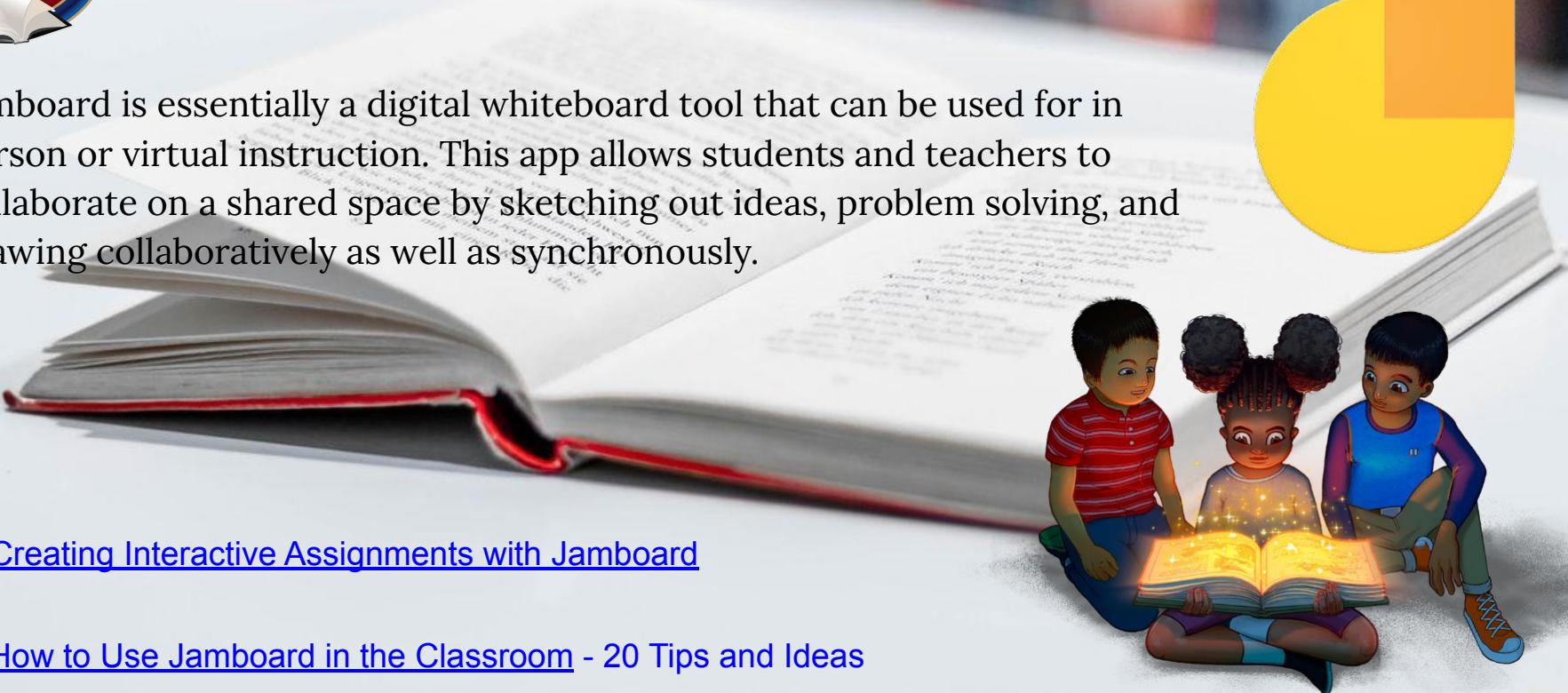
The strategies in *Reading Reconsidered* would best be used with 3rd-12th grade students. There are some strategies that could be used by primary teachers, with modifications, but I would recommend this book to teachers of intermediate grades and above. The authors include links to videos so you can watch the strategies they write about in action in a real classroom.





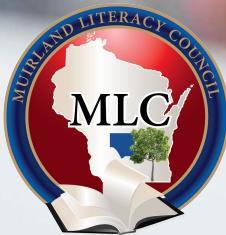
# Jam Board App

Jamboard is essentially a digital whiteboard tool that can be used for in person or virtual instruction. This app allows students and teachers to collaborate on a shared space by sketching out ideas, problem solving, and drawing collaboratively as well as synchronously.



[Creating Interactive Assignments with Jamboard](#)

[How to Use Jamboard in the Classroom - 20 Tips and Ideas](#)



# Author's WANTED!

Our newsletter needs your voice. We'd love to hear about the great things you are learning and reading. Take some time to write a short article about a new educational idea that you've learned about or are trying in your classroom or review a book you or your students are reading. In many districts, you can even earn professional development points towards a pay increase by being published in an organization's newsletter.

Send your completed articles to Amy Treptow

[atreptow@rsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:atreptow@rsd.k12.wi.us)

The deadlines for this year's newsletters are January 13, and March 9.

