2020 - 2021
Read the Way WSRA

Participants: Order children's literature from an independent book company such as Books & Company in Oconomowoc.

1. Choose the book(s) from the list of titles below to read and discuss.
2. Send your decision about your book choices via email to wsra@wsra.org
3. Use #readthewayWSRA and Tweet your book choices, conduct Twitter chats, and other ways

Saturday Keynote Presenter Juana Martinez-Neal is the recipient of the 2019 Caldecott Honor for Alma and How She Got Her Name (Candlewick Press), her debut picture book as author-illustrator. She is also the recipient of the 2020 Robert F. Sibert Medal for Fry Bread: A Native American Story (Roaring Brook) and the 2018 Pura Belpré Medal for Illustration for La Princesa and the Pea (Putnam). She was born in Lima, the capital of Peru, and now lives in Arizona, with her husband and three children.

Martinez-Neal’s books were chosen for Pernille Riipp’s 2020-21 Global Read Aloud.
Janet Wong is a graduate of Yale Law School and a former lawyer who switched careers to become a children's author. Her dramatic career change has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN's Paula Zahn Show, and Radical Sabbatical. She is the author of more than 30 books for children and teens on a wide variety of subjects, including writing and revision (You Have to Write), community and inclusion (Apple Pie 4th of July), peer pressure (Me and Rolly Maloo), chess (Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club), identity (A Suitcase of Seaweed & More), and yoga (Twist: Yoga Poems). A frequent featured speaker at literacy conferences, Wong has served as a member of several national committees, including the NCTE Poetry Committee and the IRA Notable Books for a Global Society committee. Her most recent anthology, co-edited with Sylvia Vardell, is HOP TO IT: Poems to Get You Moving. You can learn more about her work at janetwong.com and poemsbooks.com.
Ralph Fletcher is a friend of young writers and readers as well as writing teachers. He has written or co-authored many books for writing teachers including Writing Workshop: The Essential Guide, Teaching the Qualities of Writing, Lessons for the Writer’s Notebook, Boy Writers: Reclaiming Their Voices, and Pyrotechnics on the Page: Playful Craft That Sparks Writing. Ralph has worked with teachers around the U.S. and abroad, helping them find wiser ways of teaching writing.

Deanna Singh earned her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Fordham University, a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University, a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and certification in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from Cornell University. She has impacted the world as a speaker, a teacher, a principal, a leader of large foundations, a social entrepreneur, a businesswoman, an author, a publisher, and a mother. She visits schools to share her experiences and her three children’s books, I am a Boy of Color, I am a Girl of Color, and Cloth Crown.

Deanna’s sons, Zion and Zeppelin Singh, take a portion of the proceeds from the book sales and redistribute them to organizations that foster positive images and opportunities for children of color.
A few ideas to consider for your part in the project:

- Read the titles yourself then share and do book talks with students, colleagues, family, friends...
- Connect your choices in the Read Ins
- Add the #readthewayWSRA books to your school and/or classroom library
- Organize literature circles with a few copies of selected titles
- Build community with a read aloud
- Record a book talk and submit it to WSRA to post on the Wisconsin State Reading Association's YouTube Channel.
  - Design lessons and units around the #readthewayWSRA project books
  - Empower friends and reading councils to organize #readthewayWSRA book clubs
  - Start a #readthewayWSRA club
  - Attend the WSRA conference!

The possibilities are endless. Spread the word.