



# Greater Washington Reading Council

Spring 2019

## Message from the President, Dr. Michelle Picard

### GWRC Board Members

**Michelle Picard** President

**J-Lynn Van Pelt** President-Elect

**Mary Lou Rube** Vice President

**Kristen Fletcher** Treasurer

**Hillary Drumheller** Secretary

**Christy Irish** Journal

**Marnie Garnier** International Literacy

**Stephanie Fidler** VSRA Liaison

**Karen Banks/Patricia Sinclair**, Newsletter

Dear All,

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your contributions throughout our ten localities to bring the gift of literacy to the students and community members in our sphere of influence. As teachers, librarians, administrators, and specialists, and community members we devote our professional lives and much of our personal lives to ensuring that all children not only learn to read and write but WANT to do so to shape their own lives and those around them!! Thank you for your contributions big and small throughout the year.

GWRC has had an exciting year. We hosted 2019 Newberry Winner, Meg Medina at our fall conference; hosted almost monthly professional conversations with professors and teachers, published an annual journal, biannual newsletter, and offered grants and awards to our members. In July, Marnie Garnier, our International Project Coordinator will accompany several teachers to Guatemala to partner with a local community school and learn from one another.

As we look forward to the summer, we are mindful of the phenomenon called Summer Slide and are considering how to support summer literacy across communities. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter @GWRCouncil and let us know what you are doing to keep our children and young adults engaged. We are also looking for new members and board members. Please consider serving as a board member and sending us your thoughts on professional learning and how you would like to be engaged in our community. We are stronger when we work together!

Enjoy the remaining weeks of the school year. We hope to see you soon.

Michelle Picard

### Recruiting New Board Members

Do you love books? Are you interested in promoting literacy for all in the region? Join the GWRC Board and make a difference in the community. We meet 5-6 times each year work together to provide professional learning for professionals, increase access to high quality home and classroom libraries, and participate in an International literacy project with Guatemala. We also provide an annual literacy journal, a biannual newsletter, host a series of events, and sponsor grants and awards for teachers.

Consider representing your locality and join the board. Interested candidates should contact Michelle Picard directly at [michelle.picard@lcps.org](mailto:michelle.picard@lcps.org)

Current openings are listed below:

1. Vice-President Elect
2. Liaison - International Literacy Association
3. Liaison – Washington DC

## International Literacy Project in Guatemala

Four teachers from Northern Virginia will be traveling to Guatemala in July to lead a week of teacher training in Best Practices for Literacy Instruction. The teachers represent four school districts in the GWRC network. They are Lily LePelch (Manassas City Public Schools and GMU graduate program), Mary Wall (Fairfax County Public Schools), Lisa Weiss (Loudoun County Public Schools), and **Kathy Davin** (retired, Arlington County Public Schools). They will be joined by educators from Michigan, Texas and California. The educational program, in Santa Avelina, Guatemala, promotes bilingual literacy instruction using the home language of the students (Ixil, a Mayan language) and Spanish. The program is funded by Helps International of Dallas Texas. GWRC has long lent its support to the program, providing materials for the school library and promoting the trip for educators each July. The focus of teacher training this year will be formative evaluation and differentiating reading instruction based on the results of that evaluation.



### NEWS!!

#### Honor Award

The Honor Award from the International Literacy Association (ILA) annually recognizes local, student, and special interest chapters that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the chapter members, the community, the state/provincial chapter, and the ILA. Chapters are recognized for accomplishments of the previous year.

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Honor Council award from the International Literacy Association (ILA). Special thanks to Lisa Hughes for completing our application for the past several years!

### Community Outreach

GWRC has partnered with INOVA Lansdowne to help build a hospital library in their NICU and Nursery to support their Cuddling Program and their Siblings Reading to Baby Program. Proceeds from the Mini-Bookfair at the Fall Conference were used to help start the library. Board books, picture books and books in Spanish were donated to help start the library. We are looking forward to a continued partnership with INOVA and their push for early literacy.



## GWRC Induction Meeting

We celebrated the induction of new board members and a productive year with GWRC at the Bull Run Winery. Pictured below (left to right) J-Lynn Van Pelt, Shannon Evans, Melissa McQuillan, Sarah Parrish, Kirsten Fletcher, Michelle Picard, and Mary Lou Rube.



### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

- Jennifer Heidary, LCPS, Recruitment
- Melissa McQuillan, LCPS, Liaison
- Sarah Parrish, Arlington, Liaison
- Shannon Evans, Falls Church, Liaison
- Kimberly Schell, Alexandria, Liaison
- Seth Parsons will now serve as a Member at Large
- Lisa Hughes will now serve as a Member at Large

## **Professional Development:**

Free Professional Development on Balanced Literacy & Systematic, Explicit Reading Instruction hosted by Decoding Dyslexia Maryland and the Summit School. More information here: [https://www.decodingdyslexiamd.org/events/guided-reading-explicit-systematic-reading-instruction-workshops-offered?fbclid=IwAR33a9Ltjlp1Ehps-CudEwPnJ1TEV0cC9ZXI8Rj-f\\_YGr5mmdyQSLlB80](https://www.decodingdyslexiamd.org/events/guided-reading-explicit-systematic-reading-instruction-workshops-offered?fbclid=IwAR33a9Ltjlp1Ehps-CudEwPnJ1TEV0cC9ZXI8Rj-f_YGr5mmdyQSLlB80)

Do you teach secondary English or reading? JMU is hosting a week-long Adolescent Literacy Academy in June. For more information: <http://vate.org/adolescent-literacy-academy/>

Are you an English Language Arts Teacher who is also an activist? Do you believe literacy can save the world? Then check out this summer institute: <http://www2.ncte.org/groups/elate/2019-conference/>

Major National Conference coming to DC this summer! The American Library Association's annual conference will be in the DC Convention Center from June 20th-25th. Celebrate the end of the school year by learning all about the latest in children's and young adult literature. Or just get an exhibit pass to get all the free books and meet the hundreds of visiting authors: <https://2019.alaannual.org/>

## **Opportunities to Publish:**

Is teaching writing your passion? Or one of your favorite things to coach? *English Leadership Quarterly* published by NCTE has a call for manuscripts that ends June 1st on topics related to Redesigning Writing Instruction.

This issue reflects on the challenges facing writing instructors in the classroom. How does a teacher, department, or school (re)design writing instruction to meet the demands of today's learners? What approaches and practices can help support this type of learning? What resources are needed to support this change? What is the role of the teacher in this environment? What are some short- and long-term effects of this shift in writing instruction on the student? On the teacher? On education?

**Submission Deadline: June 1, 2019**

For info on submission: <http://www2.ncte.org/resources/journals/english-leadership-quarterly/write-for-us/>

The practitioner-focused journal, *Educational Leadership* is doing a special issue on Reading Instruction and they are looking for submissions by September 3rd. Here is the blurb about the issue:

Rooted in Reading

Developing strong, enthusiastic readers is one of the central objectives of schools, and yet reading instruction is often beset by complex structural challenges, shifting resources, and competing priorities. This issue will look at effective practices for teaching reading and supporting student engagement in reading at all grade levels. What should school leaders and teachers know about the latest research on reading instruction and literacy development—and how does it translate into the classroom? What works for struggling readers? How can schools create and support stronger cultures of reading? How has literacy changed in the 21st century, and what

challenges and opportunities do those changes present? At the secondary level, what works in fostering critical literacy and close-reading skills—and inspiring a passion for reading? How can school leaders prioritize immersive reading skills as a key element of whole child education?

*Deadline: September 3, 2019*

For more information or to submit an article: <https://elmagazine.submittable.com/submit/131302/february-2020-rooted-in-reading>

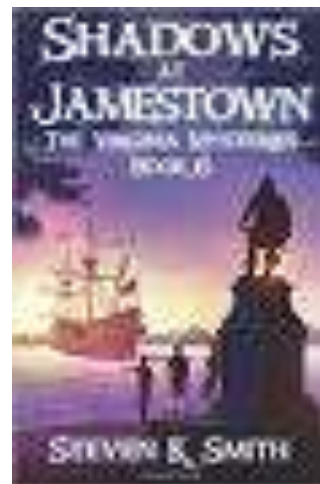
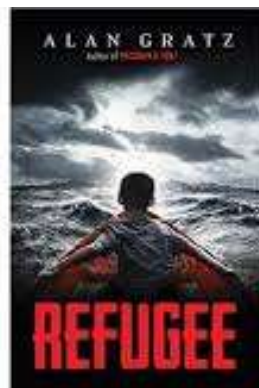
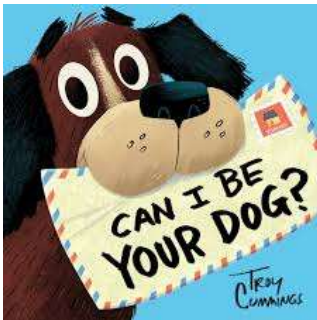
### **Author Visits and Book Events:**

"American Hate" Author Talk and Workshop hosted by DC Area Educators for Social Justice. Register Here: <https://www.dcareaducators4socialjustice.org/events/american-hate-author-talk-and-workshop-1>

The Gaithersburg Book Festival, find more information here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gaithersburg-book-festival-tickets-57057576748?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Book Buzz with the DC Public Library, find out the newest and greatest Childrens and YA books. More info here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buzz-dc-tickets-59594165754?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

4th Annual Fredericksburg Book Festival More info here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-4th-annual-fredericksburg-book-festival-visitors-tickets-56363152707?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



# GWRC FALL CONFERENCE

## FEATURING CORNELIUS MINOR

**WHEN**  
**November 2, 2019**  
**8:30-3:30**



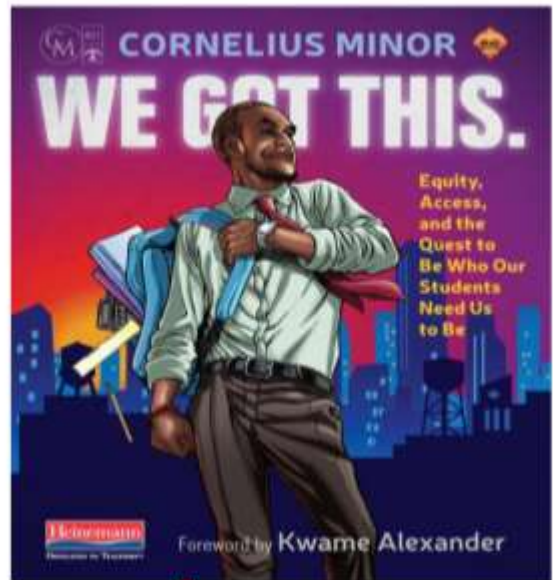
**WHERE**  
**George Mason**  
**Science and Technology Campus**

**10900 University Blvd**  
**Manassas, Va 20110**



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- Cornelius Minor is a Brooklyn-based educator. He works with teachers, school leaders, and leaders of community-based organizations to support equitable literacy reform in cities (and sometimes villages) across the globe. Whether working with educators and kids in Los Angeles, Seattle, or New York City, Cornelius uses his love for technology, hip-hop, and social media to bring communities together. As a staff developer with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Cornelius draws not only on his years teaching middle school in the Bronx and Brooklyn, but also on time spent skateboarding, shooting hoops, and working with young people.

You can connect with him on his website, [Kass and Corn](http://KassandCorn.com), or on Twitter at [@MisterMinor](https://twitter.com/MisterMinor).

## Virginia Readers' Choice 2019-2020

<https://www.vusra.org/virginia-readers-choice-program>

### Primary Virginia Readers' Choice Titles for 2019-2020

**This Is a Ball** by Beck and Matt Stanton, Little, Brown, 2017, 978-0-316-43437-9

Not only is this concept book funny but it keeps children laughing as they get a little frustrated with the author. This interactive book allows children to work together to "talk" with the author and try to make things right.

**The Boo Boos That Changed the World** by Barry Wittenstein, Charlesbridge, 2018, 978-1-58089-745-7

This story tells how one of our favorite items came to be: the Band Aid. Created by an accident at home, Earle Dickson needed something to cope with a wound. It turns out this everyday staple has quite a fascinating story.

**Jabari Jumps** by Gaia Cornwall, Candlewick, 2017, 978-0-7636-7838-8

Jabari is prepared for the diving board – at least he thinks he is. But when the time comes and his feet are at the edge of the diving board, it looks a whole lot scarier than it did from down below. Will Jabari jump?

**When's My Birthday?** by Julie Fogliano, Roaring Brook, 2017, 978-1-62672-293-4

When you are a little person, there is nothing more exciting than your birthday. This beautifully illustrated book filled with birthday candles and cakes helps gets the party started!

**Sing, Don't Cry** by Angela Dominguez, Henry Holt, 2017, 978-1-62779-839-6

A loving Abuelo brings along his guitar and memories on visits to his grandchildren. He sings with his grandchildren in the face of good and bad times, showing them that loss can open the door for new opportunities.

**What If...** by Samantha Berger, Little, Brown, 2018, 978-0-316-39096-5

A young girl thinks about all the ways she can create—from pencil and paper drawings to stories in her mind.

**Little Penguin and the Lollipop** by Tadgh Bentley, Balzer & Bray, 2017, 978-0-06-256078-0

Children cannot help but interact with this hilarious book that enlists them to help make his friend, Kenneth, feel better.

**Alfie: (The Turtle that Disappeared)** by Thyra Heder, Abrams, 2017, 978-1-41972-529-6

On Nia's sixth birthday she receives Alfie the turtle. The two share their perspectives of their new and growing friendship in this delightful story.

**Can I be Your Dog?** by Troy Cummings, Random House, 2018, 978-0-399-55452-0

A homeless dog seeks a new home by writing letters to people in his neighborhood sharing all the ways he will make their home better. Will he find the perfect home?

**Give Me Back My Book!** by Travis Foster, Chronicle, 2017, 978-1-45216-040-5

Bloo and Redd love a particular book but when the issue of who owns it is raised, the two friends fight for the book to be theirs. When a bookworm steals it, the friends decide to write their own book to get it back. These two LOVE reading!

**Elementary Virginia Readers' Choice Titles for 2019-2020**

**Lemons** by Melissa Savage, Crown Books, 2017, 978-1-52470013-3

Lemonade Witt is very upset that she has to leave San Francisco to live with her grandfather after her mother dies. Life seems very strange, especially her neighbor Tobin. He has started a Bigfoot detective agency and is trying to capture Bigfoot on camera. Will Lem find Bigfoot and a home?

**Shadows at Jamestown** by Steven K. Smith, MyBoys3Press, 2017, 9781947881006

Sam, Derek, and Caitlin are invited to participate in a summer camp at Jamestown where they will participate in an authentic archaeological dig. While learning about Jamestown, they also discover that some valuable artifacts are disappearing from the museum. The three accept the challenge to trace the cause of the missing objects.

**Her Right Foot** by Dave Eggers, Illustrated by Shawn Harris, Chronicle Books, 2017, 978-1452162812

This beautifully designed book about the history of the Statue of Liberty is filled with interesting trivia and humor. Accessible information is blended with a poetic discussion of Lady Liberty's right foot and the many immigrants she has welcomed.

**The Losers Club** by Andrew Clements, Random House, 2017, 978-0-399-55755-2

Alec is constantly getting in trouble for reading his own books when he is supposed to be paying attention in class. When Alec goes to his afterschool program he just wants to be left alone to read. Unfortunately, reading alone is not an option so Alec decides to form a club. How do you start a club you don't want other people to join? By giving it just the right name... the Losers Club.

**Confessions from the Principal's Kid** by Robin Mellom, HMH Books for Young Readers, 2017, 978-0-544-81379-3

Fifth grader Allie West feels like she doesn't belong in her school community--after all, who wants to be friends with the principal's kid? After a misunderstanding, Allie is thought of as a "snitch." Now her only friends are the other "Afters" who are also the children of school employees. Can Allie figure out who she is and what she stands for, outside of being the principal's kid?

**Pablo and Birdy** by Alison McGhee, Atheneum Books, 2017, 978-1-48147-026-4

A young boy and his parrot washed up on a small island ten years ago. The local islanders took them in and raised the boy, Pablo, as their own. As his tenth birthday approaches, Pablo is desperate to find out why he was abandoned.



**They Didn't Teach This in Worm School** by Simone Lia, Candlewick Press, 2016, 978-0-7636-9536-1

Marcus is a worm. Laurence is a bird who looks like a pigeon, but he thinks he is a flamingo. After Laurence nearly eats Marcus, they come to a deal. Marcus will navigate Laurence to Africa, although Marcus doesn't know where Africa is or how to read a map.

**Adventures of Henry Whiskers** by Gigi Priebe, Aladdin, 2017, 978-1-48146-575-5

Henry lives with his mouse family in a Windsor Castle special exhibit--a mouse-sized replica of the Queen's house. Henry's sister goes missing at the same time the exhibit is closed for repairs. Henry and his cousin race to find and rescue her before she is discovered by the humans.

**Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion** by Chris Barton, Scholastic Press, 2017, 978-151241010143

During WW I, the British and US painted over 4000 supply ships in fantastic patterns. The goal was to confuse German submarines targeting the supply ships.

**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang, Arthur Levine Books, 2018, 978-1-33815-779-6

Mia is a Chinese immigrant and a fifth grader. She helps her parents work as managers of a small motel in California as the front desk clerk. In her work and at school she encounters discrimination. Mia has a fascination with words and is determined to be a writer. She uses her talents to help herself and others to overcome obstacles. This story is based on the author's experiences.

**Middle School Virginia Readers' Choice Titles for 2019-2020**

**Refugee** by Alan Gratz, Scholastic Press, 2017, 978-0-545-88083-1

Three stories of children from different times driven by the same desires to find freedom and safety set out for new lands.

**Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus** by Dusti Bowling, Sterling Children's Books, 2017, 978-1-45492345-9

Aven was born without any arms but has figured out how to use her feet for almost everything. When people ask her about the missing arms, she usually makes up an entertaining fib such as she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match. Aven and her family move across the country when her parents take a job running a slightly failing western theme park in Arizona. Being the new kid at school is no fun, especially when you have no arms. She begins to make new friends with two other students who have their own set of problems. While adjusting to a new life, Aven finds herself in the middle of a mystery surrounding the theme park.

**Restart** by Gordon Korman, Scholastic Press, 2017, 978-1-33805377-7

Chase, captain of the school football team and well-known bully of the school, falls off the roof and has a case of amnesia. When he returns to school, he does not remember the actions that earned his reputation in the school or understand why so many students fear and hate him. Having to change many of his school routines due to his accident, he soon learns the impact his previous behavior had on the students of the school and tries to repair the damage he has done.

**Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess** by Shari Green, Pajama Press, 2017, 978-1-77278-033-8

Macy is deaf but that's not what really defines her - it's just a part of who she is. What she's really worried about is a fight with her best friend, her mother remarrying, and surprisingly connecting with her elderly neighbor over books.

**Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive!** by Ammi-Joan Paquette, Walden Pond Press, 2017, 978-0-06-241879-1

Two out of every three of these unbelievable stories about the world we live in are true, but one is a lie. Like the popular game, readers have to sort fact from fiction to determine the truth.

**Lost in the Pacific, 1942: Not a Drop to Drink** by Tod Olson, Scholastic, 2016, 978-0-545-92808-3

Based on true events, this story details the mission charged with taking WWI Air Hero Eddie Rickenbacker to Canton Island. As the plane nears the island, it runs out of fuel and crash lands in the Pacific. The story continues to describe the crews' harrowing time at sea.

**Watchdog** by Will McIntosh, Delacorte Press, 2017, 978-1-52471384-3

In his first novel for young adults, this Virginia author sets the story in a futuristic dystopian Chicago. Vick, who suffers from asthma, and his younger sister, Tara, an electronics savant, struggle to survive in a dark world. They spend their days scouring through junk yards looking for electronic parts they can sell for food. When Tara creates a robotic dog that draws the attention of the underworld, things take a turn for the worse. Family, loyalty, and friendship are deeply embedded in this story which will appeal to both boys and girls. Who will triumph: good or evil?

**Amina's Voice** by Hena Khan, Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017, 978-1-48149206-5

Amina is in 6th grade and a Pakistani-American who has a beautiful singing voice but won't sing in front of people. Her best friend is Korean and becoming a U.S. citizen. While Amina deals with friendship and family issues, there is a tragic event in her town that brings people together.

**The Red Bandanna: Young Reader's Adaptation** by Tom Rinaldi, Viking Books for Young Readers, 2017, 978-0-425-28762-0

Never expecting to be a hero, Welles Crowther is in the South Tower in New York City on September 11, 2001. Realizing the danger of the situation, Welles, wearing his red bandanna, leads people to safety and returns to save even more.

**Braced** by Alyson Gerber, Arthur A. Levine Books, 2017, 978-0-545-90214-4

Rachel has scoliosis. Right before 7th grade begins and she's made the starting line-up on the soccer team, she finds out she has to wear a brace to correct her scoliosis. She has two best friends and a crush on a boy, so she has to navigate 7th grade while having to wear the brace.

## High School Virginia Readers' Choice Titles for 2019-2020

**Dreamland Burning** by Jennifer Latham, Little, Brown and Co., 2017, 978-0-316-38493-3

*"Some bodies won't stay buried. Some stories need to be told."* Is the past really history or are there innumerable invisible threads that tie the past and present together? In a well-written novel, Jennifer Latham addresses that question. Rowan Chase, an affluent biracial teen living in present day Tulsa, Oklahoma, lives a comfortable, safe life until a body is discovered on her parent's property and she becomes obsessed with finding out the identity of the victim. Will, a 17-year-old biracial teen living in Tulsa during the 1920s, remains relatively unscathed by racism until he commits an angry and thoughtless act, which quickly escalates into an event from which there is no turning back. Rowan and Will's stories unfold through alternating chapters in which the topics of race, privilege, and violence in America are explored. Both teens are driven to do the right thing. Both must maneuver within the confines of powerful social forces, the Ku Klux Klan in Will's time, police assumptions and political pressure in Rowan's time. Events from these two eras intersect and the final result is a surprising resolution to the original mystery that started it all.

**One of Us Is Lying** by Karen M. McManus, Delacorte Press, 2017, 978-1-52471468-0

A typical high school and five students assigned to in-school restriction is the setting for *One of Us is Lying*. One of the students, Simon, is the author of a school-based gossip app, and the other four have been Simon's targets. Somehow Simon was able to use innuendo and fact to make the students of Bayview High School fearful. When Simon is found dead in the in-school room, the other four students are suspected in his death. They all had motive and opportunity. Or did they? This is a "who-done-it" with many twists and turns as old liaisons break and new ones are formed between members of the student body as the investigation winds its way to the truth.

**Spill Zone** by Scott Westerfeld, First Second, 2017, 978-1-59643-936-8

Three years ago, the Spill transformed Poughkeepsie from a sleepy NY town to a living nightmare, a quarantined zone where the laws of physics no longer apply, mutated creatures roam, and human "meatpuppets" lurk with empty, glowing eyes. Armed only with a camera, outlaw artist Addison sneaks past the National Guard perimeter at night, looking for answers about the mysterious disaster and photographing the strange phenomena there, which she then sells to wealthy collectors. What was the Spill? What happened to her parents? And why won't Addison's little sister, Alexa, a survivor of the tragedy, talk about what she witnessed that night? When a rich buyer offers Addison a million-dollar payday for a dangerous job inside the Zone, she must decide whether the risk is worth the reward. Creepy sci-fi at its finest, *The Spill Zone* is an eerie graphic novel you won't be able to put down.

**The 57 Bus** by Dashka Slater, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018, 978-0-374-30323-5

Two teens, one bus, one lighter, and a decision that can't be undone. In this true story about a sixteen-year-old who set an agender teen on fire on a city bus in California, one split-second decision changes two lives and two communities forever. The book provides testimony about both teens before the incident, details and accounts of the crime, and the road to healing for both families. Interviews, Tumblr excerpts, letters, and statistics provide a full picture of the consequences of actions.

**In Other Lands** by Sarah Rees Brennan, Big Mouth House, 2017, 978-1-61873-120-3

A laugh-out-loud adventure filled with unexpected twists, romances, and epic battles. Elliott discovers that he is one of the few people who can enter the Borderlands, a land filled with magical creatures and new possibilities. How will Elliott the pacifist deal with the bloody fighting and conflict of this new realm? With sarcasm, humor, and his own style of course!

**Long Way Down** by Jason Reynolds, Atheneum, 2017, 978-1-48143825-4

It should be a quick trip on the elevator, but 15-year-old Will finds that it is a “Long Way Down” from his apartment on the 8th floor to the lobby. This story, told in verse, requires him to answer a simple question. Will he follow the 3 Rules: Don’t cry, don’t snitch, always get revenge? Or, will he make a different decision? In real time, his descent only lasts 67 seconds. But somehow, on each floor, someone from his past walks through the doors until Will is hemmed in and surrounded by the ghosts of his past. As their stories unfold, Will gets a glimpse of what really happened in each man’s quest for revenge and payback as well as what drove their actions and the resulting repercussions. Will wonders if he really has a choice, and if so, what it will be.

**Paper Butterflies** by Lisa Heathfield, Carolrhoda Lab, 2017, 978-1-51248241-6

June's life is full of secrets--she lives in a home where she suffers from daily abuse of her stepmother and sister, abuse her dad doesn't even know about. She goes to a school where she's picked on, targeted, and treated as an outcast. June lives in her world without others knowing her struggles, a world where it seems that there is no light; that is, until she meets Blister. Blister shows June another way of life, one filled with paper butterflies and laughter. And in a world where there seems to be so little worth fighting for, doesn't June deserve it? *Paper Butterflies* is a heartbreaking tale of survival against the darkness and how love can bring us into the light.

**The Lines We Cross** by Randa Abdel-Fattah, Scholastic, 2017, 978-1-33811866-7

Michael and Mina are two students from different sides of the picket line. Michael, or rather, Michael's parents, represent Aussie Values, an Australian anti-immigrant group that hopes to decrease the supports provided to refugees in Australia. Mina and her parents are Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, hoping to rebuild their lives and safely grieve the losses they suffered. When put to the test, what will Michael and Mina stand for?

**Loving vs. Virginia: A Documentary Novel of the Landmark Civil Rights Case** by Patricia Hruby Powell, Chronicle, 2017, 978-1-45212590-9

In Caroline County, Virginia, in 1955, two teenagers fell in love. Their story, the story of courage and determination while facing immense odds, turned into a landmark civil rights supreme court case. Told in verse, this book tells the true story of Mildred and Richard Loving and the battle they fought against discrimination, a battle that they ultimately won as the supreme court legalized marriage between races.

**Warcross** by Marie Lu, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017, 978-0-399-54796-6

Tattooed, rainbow-haired Emika Chen is a bounty hunter living in major debt. When her attempt to hack into the opening game of the International Warcross Championships doesn't go as planned, she is immediately thrust into the spotlight. Not only is she capturing the attention of Warcross players worldwide, but the creator of the games himself - Hideo Tanaka. Will his promise of fortune be enough to convince her to enter this dangerous virtual tournament and the consequences that lurk there?

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## LIAISON REPORT

Shannon Evans GWRC-Falls Church Liaison

This year we trained all of our upper elementary school (Thomas Jefferson) in Words Their Way. We will be in full implementation next year. At our lower elementary school (Mt.Daniel), we decided on TCWRP Phonics Units of Study. Teachers will be trained next year. The district has also been creating a Literacy Scope and Sequence document in grades K-12.

At Thomas Jefferson, we are in our second year of a framework called RICU. RICU stands for Reading Intensive Care Unit. Twelve students from second grade are chosen each round. The rounds last for 8 weeks and students receive responsive, systematic and direct instruction for 60 minutes a day. It is used as core replacement during the Language Arts block. Students spend twenty minutes in three different rotations: guided reading, guided writing (in response to reading), and word work. The RICU team is made up of reading teachers and paraprofessionals. This team meets for thirty minutes every day to discuss student progress and adjust lessons. The data has shown significant improvement among most RICU students.

We are looking forward to continuing with all of these wonderful things next year!



## Professional Development Opportunity

George Mason University's Literacy program is part of the College of Education and Human Development. Its faculty members, including GWRC's President, Seth Parsons, are currently engaged in a number of projects from local to international. Our graduate certificate and M.Ed. programs are designed for classroom teachers interested in strengthening their literacy instruction or preparing to serve as a reading specialist. Classes are offered in a hybrid format, combining face-to-face class sessions with online coursework, in a variety of locations across Northern Virginia. Our Ph.D. program prepares literacy researchers and scholars. The Literacy specialization within Mason's Ph.D. in Education program is in its 17th year, with many opportunities for students to study a wide array of topics and engage in research with faculty. If you are interested in a graduate certificate, master's degree or a Ph.D. related to literacy, please visit <http://gse.gmu.edu/literacy-and-reading/> or contact Jennifer Hathaway, Academic Program Coordinator for Literacy and GWRC's George Mason University liaison, at [jhathaw2@gmu.edu](mailto:jhathaw2@gmu.edu).

### Call for Manuscripts:

*Making Literacy Connections*

The Journal of the Greater Washington Reading Council (GWRC)

[www.gwrc.net](http://www.gwrc.net) | twitter: @GWRCouncil

2019-2020 publication

The GWRC Editorial Board invites you to submit manuscripts for consideration for the upcoming issue of *Making Literacy Connections*, the refereed journal of the GWRC, an affiliate of the Virginia State Reading Association (VSRA).

You are invited to submit articles of effective classroom practices, successful literacy programs, proven strategies, action research, as well as reviews of standard assessments or adopted literacy programs, including those that may involve the use of technology.

#### Manuscript Guidelines:

- Manuscripts should be submitted in Microsoft Word format
- Attach a coversheet with the following information
  - Your name, affiliation, position
  - Your mailing address
  - Your telephone number(s)
  - Your email address
- Manuscripts should not contain identifying information (to ensure impartial review)
- Use APA style manual ([www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)), 6<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Email manuscripts to [MakingLiteracyConnections@gmail.com](mailto:MakingLiteracyConnections@gmail.com) (please put GWRC Submission in subject)

**Deadline:** October 1, 2019

**Questions:** Contact Christy Irish: [MakingLiteracyConnections@gmail.com](mailto:MakingLiteracyConnections@gmail.com)



The Greater Washington Reading Council sets its mission as promoting literacy and literacy education in this Northern Virginia region. A local affiliate of the Virginia State Reading Association, the Greater Washington Reading Council members are committed to supporting teachers, administrators, and the general public in the best practices of literacy instruction, pre-K to college and beyond. Through professional conferences, an online newsletter, an evolving website, and a members-only journal, the Greater Washington Reading Council works to support the goals of the Virginia State Reading Association and the International Literacy Association



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