



Rutgers Center for Literacy Development

April 2020



A BRIEF NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are living in strange times. I'm thinking: "How did this happen?" "Why did it happen?" "This doesn't happen to me."

I know that teachers are worried about what will happen to their children's reading and writing. We talk about the summer slide when most children lose 30% of what they learned. Well summer slide is early this year, about three months early, and with summer vacation children will be out of school for total of 6 months. What will happen to literacy development?

I think that the children will be just fine. Teachers have come to the front lines, working remotely, but as hard as ever so the children will not slide. During this time you as teachers are keeping things as normal as possible. Parents and the children who miss you can see how hard you work, and what a great job you do. We are all grateful to you for coming front and center and helping out so much during this difficult time. We thank you so much.

Working at home is difficult, with distractions such as the phone or the doorbell ringing. Your own children don't have enough to do and keep asking if you will play with them or help them with online school. We are beginning to wonder what it will be like next fall.

Turn this into an opportunity to do the things we may not do or have time for in our daily lives when we are hardly ever at home.

- Read a story or a part of a novel together. Talk about what you read.
- Read silently together and talk about what you read.
- Select television programs carefully and view them as a family and then talk about them.
- Write about what is difficult about being in this Pandemic and share your writing.
- Write about some good things that happened during the Pandemic and share your writing.
- Cook something together that requires following directions.
- Go bicycling, take a walk, stay 6 feet away from those not in your family, wash your hands, stay safe and healthy.

A newsletter about reading during the summer will be sent in May.

In this brief newsletter we wanted to reach out and share some thoughts about the Pandemic. We also wanted you to have a first look at what the Center for Literacy Development has planned for the next school year.

Be Safe and Be Well,

Lesley Mandel Morrow, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor
Director of the Center for Literacy Development
Rutgers Graduate School of Education

If You Give the World a Pandemic

A message inspired by Laura Numeroff's "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie"

By Catherine Rand

If you give the world a pandemic,
It's going to close the schools.

If you close the schools,
Teachers will have to teach online.

When you start teaching on line
You'll realize you need more resources.

You notice students don't have enough to do,
You'll probably push yourself harder to find ways to motivate them from afar.

Students are getting lonely.
They miss going to school and their friends,

So you start a classroom chat,
Using many different platforms such as such as Dojo, Meet, or Zoom.

If you take time to chat every day,
Students will start to be bolder and funnier...

Students may even make you a presentation
On how they miss you and miss school!

At the end of each day
You'll probably need a really long nap.

Before you can take a nap,
You'll have to make dinner, do laundry, and clean up.

To relax you watch the "Great British Baking Show",
Which gives you an idea.

Students could do a writing activity
Based on a recipe of their choice.

Some students are not logging on.
You'll begin to worry about them.

When you begin to think about them,
You'll imagine all the reasons they might not be there.

This reminds you how desperately you want to go back to school,
How you want to give your students a hug and read to them.

So...this will again remind you that when the world is given a pandemic,
It's going to close the schools.

But we'll keep giving our all and remembering that our love and support of our students and families has always been more valuable than the best assignments in the world. So, if you give the world a pandemic, it may close schools. But it won't stop us teachers!



Catherine Rand is currently a 5th Grade ELA teacher at Smalley Elementary School in Bound Brook, New Jersey, and a Literacy Education doctoral student at Rutgers University. Her research includes student perceptions of classroom management and the effects of text leveling on students.

SAVE **THE** DATE

OCTOBER 23, 2020
53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ON READING AND WRITING

KEYNOTE AND FEATURED SPEAKERS
REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 2020



Tanny McGregor
Internally-know Teacher
and Author



Donalyn Miller
Texas Teacher and Author



Wiley Blevins
Author



Diane Lapp
Author



Janet Wong
Author

CENTER FOR LITERACY DEVELOPMENT 2020-2021 SPEAKER SERIES WORKSHOPS



Cornelius Minor
*We Got This: Equity, Access, and
the Quest to Be Who Our
Students Need Us to Be*
Date: TBA



Lucy Calkins
Teaching Writing
Date: TBA



John Schumacher
"Mr. Schu"
Ambassador of Books
Date: TBA



Kate Roberts
A Novel Approach
Date: TBA

Earn 3 Credits in 4 Days

05:300:409 (undergrad)

15:299:509 (graduate)

Children's Literature in Early Childhood and Elementary School

Monday, July 20 th	Wednesday, July 22 nd
Tuesday, July 21 st	Thursday, July 23 rd

9:30am-3:00pm

**Authors and
Literacy Experts will
present during the
course**



Who Can Take This?

- Education Minors and other Undergraduates (05:300:409)
- Required for Ed.M. and Endorsement Students becoming Reading Specialists
- Post-Bacc Ed.M. Program
- 5-Year Certification Program
- As an elective for: All Masters, Ph.D. and Ed.D. Programs at the GSE
- Students taking Rutgers Literacy Certificate
- Educators looking for Professional Development

Register here:

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/>



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