

The Illinois Center for the Book is an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, and a programming arm of the Illinois State Library, a department of the Illinois Secretary of State's office.



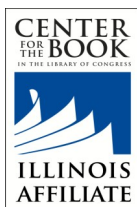
Incorporated in 1985 at the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Center for the Book was the third affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

1985 3rd Affiliate

Today, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico have a center affiliated with the Library of Congress.



Each state center provides programs that highlight their own literary heritage, books, reading, writing and libraries.



Illinois Center for the Book: Nurturing and connecting readers and writers, and honoring our rich literary heritage.

Illinois State Library's Illinois Center for the Book

Reading Programs for Your Student and Home Schooled Patrons

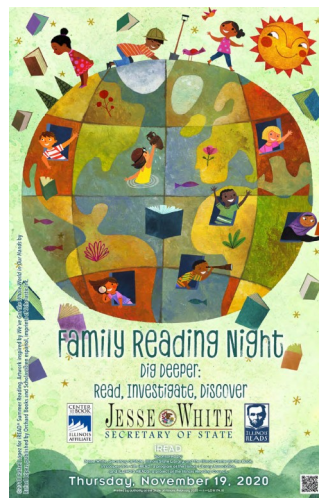
Family Reading Night

An annual statewide event to encourage families to spend quality time reading together – "Read Together, Grow Together". Held annually on the third Thursday in November, posters and bookmarks are made available to libraries, schools, youth and literacy organizations to promote their programs.

Families can have fun reading together at home by participating in some of the following activities:

- * Make a snack by reading an easy to follow recipe.
- * Encourage younger readers dress up like their favorite book characters then read the books.
- * Each family member take a character in a book and acts out the character when reading that part.
- * Have your child read to his/her favorite stuffed animal, toy, pet, younger sibling or other family member.
- * Make a reading fort out of throw pillows and blankets.
- * Create a reading treasure hunt. It could incorporate any of the above activities.

Program Partners—*IREAD*, a program of the Illinois Library Association and *Illinois Reads* a program of the Illinois Reading Council.



Letters About Literature in Illinois

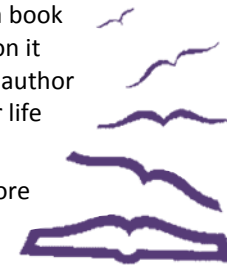
An annual statewide reading and writing promotion for students in grades 4 – 12.

Students are encouraged to read a book that resonates with them, reflect on it and write a reflective letter to the author about how the book changed their life or view of the world.

The program supports Common Core and National Language Arts and Reading Standards.

Students can enter on their own or through their schools, libraries or youth organizations.

The entry deadline is December 15, each year.



Read. Be Inspired. Write Back.

Read for a Lifetime

An annual statewide program that targets high school students.

Students who read at least four books from the list of 25 titles will receive a certificate signed by the Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White. The book list contains a combination of classic and contemporary literature at a variety of reading levels.

Special accommodations can be made for blind and visually impaired students.

Reporting forms must be received by April 15, each year.

Need some ideas for good books by Illinois authors?

Check out our **Partnership Programs** with the **Illinois Reading Council**.

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children

An annual award to recognize an Illinois Children's/Young Adult author whose body of work exhibits excellence, engenders a love of literature, and promotes lifelong literacy.



Illinois Reads

An annual statewide initiative to promote Illinois authors and reading for Illinois citizens of all ages.

Each year, six books in six different age groups ranging from infants to adult are selected. The program officially kicks off in March with the Illinois Reads Book Festival and concludes on Family Reading Night.

Prairie State Award winning authors in order:

Jamie Gilson, Candace Fleming, Ilene Cooper, Sally Walker, Jim Aylesworth, Laurie Lawlor, Robert Burleigh, Carolyn Crimi, Eric Rohmann, Andrea Beaty, Tom Lichtenheld, Julia Durango, Alice McGinty, Aaron Reynolds, Barb Rosenstock, Matthew Cordell and Blue Balliett.