

Passport to Possibilities



61st Annual Conference
March 10-13, 2017 * Grand Rapids



Keynote Speakers



Peter Johnston
Saturday AM



Taylor Mali
Saturday PM



Lester Laminack
Sunday



Ernest Morrell
Monday

**Devos Place
Convention
Center and
Amway Grand
Plaza Hotel**

Grand Rapids

Conference Preview Table of Contents

Registration Information	3
Hotel Accommodations	4
Conference Schedule	5
General Session Speakers	6
Featured Speakers	7
Luncheons	13
Monday Digital Literacy Day.....	15



2017 Conference Planning Team



Elizabeth Gates
2017 Conference
Chair

Conference Commission



Elenore
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Sharma



Kathy
Operhall



Trish
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Linda Schneider
Rediske



Carol
Paul



Elizabeth
VanDeusen



Barb
Jaszcz



Sarah
Shoemaker



Registration Information

- To register online at www.michiganreading.org, click the registration button.
- After February 13, 2017, registration will include an additional \$30 charge.
- Online registration closes at midnight March 1, 2017. Registration will be available on site at the conference.
- Credit card payments will be processed immediately upon submission.
- Registrants who choose to have their school send a purchase order will be considered unpaid until a check is received from the paying organization or individual (***purchase orders are not considered payment***). Upon receiving a purchase order, the MRA Office will issue an invoice based on the purchase order. **A check for your fees must arrive in the office or payment arrangements made with the MRA Business Manager by February 13, 2017.**
- Cancellations received by the MRA office after February 13, 2017, will be subject to a \$30.00 processing fee. Membership fees are non-refundable. Meal tickets are non-refundable after March 1, 2017.
- There is a \$15 processing fee for changes made to the payment method.
- MRA reserves the right to resell unclaimed meal tickets 1 hour prior to meal events, as these meals are prepaid by the Association.

Members

- \$185 - Regular Member - 2 or 3 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday - Monday)
- \$140 - Regular Member - 1 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday or Sunday or Monday)
- \$170 - Retired Member - 2 or 3 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday - Monday)
- \$125 - Retired Member - 1 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday or Sunday or Monday)
- \$125 - Full-time Undergraduate Student Member
2 or 3 Day Registration
(Saturday - Monday)
- \$105 - Full-Time Undergraduate Student Member
1 Day Registration
(Saturday or Sunday or Monday)

***\$30 late fee applied to all registrations after
February 13***

Non-Members

- \$265 - Non-Member - 2 or 3 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday - Monday)
- \$190 - Non-Member - 1 Day Registration Fee
(Saturday or Sunday or Monday)

***\$30 late fee applied to all registrations after
February 13***



Hotel Accommodations

Rooms at the MRA discounted rate are limited, so book early to guarantee availability.

- Make your reservation **early** online (www.michiganreading.org) using the hotel registration link or by phone.
- Hotels will hold rooms at the MRA Conference rate until February 1, 2017.
- If you call to book your room, let the hotel know you are attending the MRA Conference to receive the MRA Conference rates below.
- An advance deposit or credit card number may be required to book your reservation.
- Please make arrangements for tax exempt pricing (when applicable) with your hotel when making your reservation.
- Prices below do not reflect added hotel tax and fees.
- Be sure to check on your hotel's cancellation policy to avoid being charged any cancellation fees. Cancellation policies differ by hotel.
- Each hotel offers discounted parking to all registered overnight guests.

	<p>Amway Grand Plaza Hotel</p> <p>187 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 1-800-253-3590</p> <p>Single/Double: \$135 Triple/Quad: \$155</p>	
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	<p>JW Marriott</p> <p>235 Louis Street NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 1-877-901-6632</p> <p>Single/Double/Triple/Quad: \$170</p>	
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	<p>Courtyard by Marriott Downtown</p> <p>11 Monroe Avenue NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 1-877-901-6632</p> <p>Single/Double: \$135 Triple/Quad: \$155</p>	
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Conference Schedule

SATURDAY

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	General Session, Peter Johnston
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Breakout Sessions
10:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Exhibits Open
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Exhibits
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch with Authors & Illustrators (<i>ticketed event</i>)
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Breakout Sessions
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	General Session, Taylor Mali
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Breakout Sessions

SUNDAY

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Exhibits Open
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	General Session, Lester Laminack
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Breakout Sessions
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Young Authors Luncheon / Kaleidoscope (<i>ticketed event</i>)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Author Luncheon with David Wiesner (<i>ticketed event</i>)
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Exhibits
1:15 PM - 2:45 PM	Breakout Sessions
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Breakout Sessions

MONDAY

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	General Session, Ernest Morrell
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Breakout Sessions
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Tech Demo
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Breakout Sessions
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Closing session, moderated by Dr. Troy Hicks

Schedule is subject to change.



General Session Speakers

First General Session - Saturday, March 11



Peter Johnston

Helping Children Put Their Best Foot Forward

At the beginning of the year, most teachers encounter children who do not behave and achieve as we might wish for them (or for us), who behave in ways that make it difficult for others to enjoy their company or to learn with them. These children often find themselves going down the hall for one reason or another so that they miss important parts of classroom community life. This compounds the problem. They are not positioned in ways that will help them put their best foot forward. This session is about changing their lives (and everyone else's).

Second General Session - Saturday, March 11



Taylor Mali

Passport to Poetry: A Reading by Taylor Mali

Too often the folks telling teachers what they should be doing in the classroom haven't spent any time there, and have no idea what it's actually like. Taylor Mali isn't like that for two reasons: He is a teacher, and he has no desire to tell other teachers what to do. Come listen to stories and poems you may not even realize are poems from someone who has spent the last 16 years traveling the world on poetry's back.

Third General Session - Sunday, March 12



Lester Laminack

Story Matters: Exploring the Power of Story

Story is essential to our existence. It is how we make sense of our past, navigate our present, and imagine our future. Lester will explore the power of story in our lives.

Fourth General Session - Monday, March 13



Ernest Morrell

Every Child a Super Reader: 7 Strengths to Open a World of Possible

Every child deserves the opportunity to become a 24/7/365 super reader! Our 7 STRENGTHS MODEL, built on a social-emotional framework that honors children's interests, cultures, and stories, builds a hopeful, kind, and literature rich community of learners in which teachers can cultivate super readers who read with joy, stamina, and purpose, who believe in themselves and others, and who are ready for college, career, and civic engagement.

Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators



Eric Rohmann

The Language of Pictures

Join Caldecott medalist Eric Rohmann in this fast-paced and fun presentation detailing the ways children not only see, but use pictures as language. Discover how the combination of pictures and words creates a book that taps directly into the child's imagination. The process of making images for both fiction and non-fiction books will be discussed, as well as the ways in which the visual language of images engages the young readers.



David Wiesner

The Art of Visual Storytelling

A look at David Wiesner's exploration of telling stories with pictures, leading up to the creation of *FISH GIRL*, his new graphic novel.



Denise Brennen-Nelson & Cyd Moore Celebrate Diversity - Cultivate Creativity

Join creative team Cyd Moore and Denise Brennan-Nelson for an intriguing, informative, and fun discussion on creating children's picture books. They will discuss the link between diversity and creativity and share their unique perspectives on the importance of reinforcing self-esteem and valuable principles through words and images. Enjoy a sneak peek at their latest collaboration, *Willow and the Wedding*, and discover why this story truly is a labor of love.



Marquin Parks

Writing with Diversity: Considering and Including Race in Children's Books

We certainly need more diversity in books, right? Join me to hear my perspective and participate in a dialogue that addresses the topic of more diversity in books!



Ruth McNally-Barshaw

Journals: Enhance Student Writing on a Shoestring Budget

Art, journaling, and storytelling techniques can improve student writing. In this hands-on workshop, Ellie McDoodle series author-illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw shows homemade and store-bought journals, books using journal formats, and many examples of how to get your students started.



Kevin Kammeraad

Words are funny: Inviting Your Students to Play with Words!

"The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect, but by the play instinct." – Psychologist Carl Jung. Instead of teaching poetry, think of it as teaching your students how to play with words! Join Kevin (who's been professionally playing with words for two decades now!) as he shares oodles of ideas for inspiring your students through whimsical wordplay and playful poetry, with examples from his newest book *Spinach Dip Pancakes*, as well as some of his previous works.

Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators



Jonathan Friesen

Make Me Visible

Hear a story of hope from award-winning author Jonathan Friesen. Tourette's and epilepsy filled his teen years with isolation. Once visible, his journey took a heartwarming turn. To Jonathan, our greatest weapon against illiteracy is our humanity. Jonathan shares the two questions that today's youth are asking of those around them — questions that reading educators and those who touch kids' lives cannot ignore.



Shannon Cooper-Toma & Tracy Foster

Benson's Adventures in Michigan

Meet the authors of *Benson's Adventures in Michigan* and learn how this dynamic duo (Building Principal, Shannon Cooper-Toma and Kindergarten Teacher, Tracy Foster) turned their mission to "Dream Big."



Devin Scillian

A Writer's Journey

The presentation is a walk through my 17 books, my development as a writer, and the ways that I've learned to inspire young writers.



Amy Henrickson

Let's Go on a Virtual Fieldtrip

Students engage in travel writing by creating a passport and "visiting" a planet, country, state, town, famous landmark, and an imaginary place.



Leslie Helakoski

Playing with Words and Ideas

Leslie will focus on word play and word choice for young writers. She will also talk about her books' uses in the classroom as well as her current projects.



Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators



Kate Messner

Real Revision: How Favorite Authors Can Inspire Student Writing (and Rewriting!)

Author-educator Kate Messner pulls back the curtain on the revision process, sharing stories from the writing trenches and photos of her own messy, marked-up manuscripts. When student writers get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at how authors of their favorite books revise, they're inspired to spend more time using those tried and true strategies to revise their own writing.



Frank Serafini

The Reader's Toolbox: Expanding Comprehension Instruction

As the texts readers read become more complex and include both print and digital texts and images, the strategies readers need to be successful must expand to accommodate these new texts. This session will offer a framework for organizing strategy instruction across digital and print-based platforms and will provide specific examples of how to introduce these strategies.



Alison DeCamp

History in the Making: Making Historical Fiction Alive for Kids

Alison DeCamp, author of *MY NEAR-DEATH ADVENTURES (99% True!)* and *MY NEAR-DEATH ADVENTURES (I Almost Died. Again.)*, takes us through the process of writing historical fiction for kids — from mean grandmothers, timber pirates, odd advertisements, the research process, and ways to make the 19th century come alive.



Ralph Fletcher

Lifting the Chill in the Writing Classroom

In recent years, the writing classroom has been overtaken by a fixation on expository writing to get kids ready for writing tests and the Common Core. As a result, the classroom has less choice, less joy, and less engagement for young writers. We will explore the reasons behind this and the steps teachers can begin to reclaim the writing workshop.



Gary Schmidt

Why the Wicked Witch of the West Matters

When writers for young readers deal with the darkness that comes into our lives, they are not simply ratcheting up the tension in a plot; they are trying to honestly and forcefully deal with the truth about a broken world. What is at stake in writing about the Wicked Witches that fly around us is, in fact, nothing less than truth.



Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators



Pernille Ripp
**Passionate Readers -
Engaging All Learners in the
Wonders of Reading**

We have the tools to help us be literacy teachers, but how do we create passionate reading environments? This workshop focuses on all the extra things we can implement in our classrooms as we help students become invested and excited about our literacy communities. Whether we start small with choice and voice in the classroom, to creating global collaborative projects, passion is easy to re-ignite in literacy as long as you have the ideas and the trust in yourself to try them. Attendees will leave with a plethora of new strategies, and tips and tricks to infuse more passion into their literacy classroom.



Mandy Buehrlen

**Technology and Today's
Readers and Writers**

Author MG Buehrlen discusses how to foster, maintain, and expand the love of reading and writing by utilizing the latest online technology in your classroom: book review communities, social networks, and writing forums.



Jan Richardson

**The Next Step Forward
for Struggling Readers**

In this interactive session, we will analyze reading, writing, and spelling assessments of struggling readers (emergent, early, and transitional) to develop a comprehensive plan for acceleration. We will focus on selecting appropriate texts, prompting for effective processing, collaboration between the interventionist and the classroom teacher, and suggestions for home support.



Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators

The Two Sisters - Gail Boushey & Joan Moser

CAFE: Fine-Tune Your Practice by Delivering Targeted Individual and Group Instruction through Continual Assessment

Build on your working knowledge of the CAFE literacy system and Daily 5 classroom structure methods. This workshop provides a brief refresher of the fundamentals of CAFE, how to use assessment to: 1) understand individual student needs, 2) identify next steps for teaching literacy strategies in whole group, small group and one-on-one, and 3) know when it's time to move forward with the next CAFE strategy. Joan Moser and Gail Boushey focus on the essential role assessment plays in effectively guiding each of your students through the four areas of literacy development: Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary (CAFE).



Daily 5: What's New, What's Changed, and the Latest Research

Join the sisters in this lively and engaging session as they share with you their new learning, most current research and foundational components behind the Daily 5 and Math Daily 3.

Antero Garcia

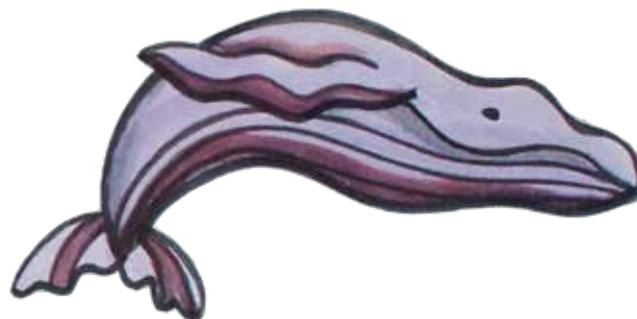
Playing with Culture: Youth Engagement, Equity, and Connected Learning

In this workshop, participants will discuss how secondary ELA classrooms today are changing to meet the interests of students that are "always on." Looking at case studies from popular young adult literature, film, and comic books, participants will construct a framework to support "connected learning" in secondary ELA classrooms. Further, we will look at models of gameplay and consider how forms of "play" can create more equitable learning environments with our teachers, our students, and our community.



Pose/Wobble/Flow: Culturally Proactive Teaching in Uncertain Times

Cultural contexts of learning and teaching have shifted significantly in today's world, thanks to heightened academic expectations, restrictive education policies, and near-constant advances in technology. In the meantime, the country as a whole continues to stratify across numerous lines, including race and class. In these uncertain times, how can we equip our students with literacy skills and ourselves with teaching practices that proactively address these challenges? How can confronting our own cultural privilege and positionality allow us to better understand the perspectives we carry with us into our classrooms, as well as the voices, questions, and experiences of the students whom we teach? Using a framework called Pose/Wobble/Flow (P/W/F), facilitators will share strategies for identifying areas of professional growth and addressing the uncertainties we all face in our work with an increasingly diverse student population.



Featured Speakers, Authors and Illustrators

Kimberli Bindschatel



Explore the World of Self Publishing

It's a whole new world! Whether you've always imagined seeing your words in print or becoming the next best-seller, there's no time like the present to usher that dream into reality. Learn the best practices on how to turn your manuscript into a viable eBook and have it for sale on Amazon.com.

Teaching Tolerance and Diversity in a Xenophobic World

Encouraging open minds is vital, not only to help students embrace diversity in others, but see differences as strengths in themselves.

Participants in this session will learn specific strategies for using story and characters as a springboard for classroom discussion, several classroom activities, and to provide an open door to those who are struggling with these issues.

Janie Lynn Panagopoulos

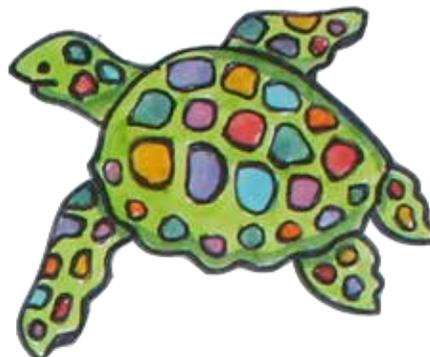
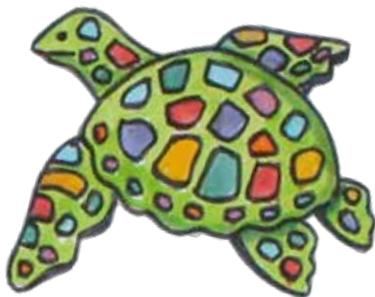


Research: A Passport to the Past

The Good Old Days - *Not!* Creating interest in students for research is often difficult. My opinion: give research a twist and look at the dark side of history, and realize the Good Old Days were not all that good. Teaching students to look for unique, weird, or strange historical themes might be just what you need to create interest in the classroom.

The Life of a Writer: Passport to Creativity

"A writer needs to know what she is writing about." Sometimes the life of a writer is quiet, simple, and boring. Other times it is a challenge. Award winning author, Janie Lynn Panagopoulos shares her experiences in what drew her into writing as a student and what has kept her there, professionally, for over 37 years. Each writer is different, do you have what it takes?



Luncheons

Lunch with the Authors & Illustrators - \$30

Saturday, March 11th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Enjoy lunch in the company of Michigan authors and illustrators. This unique opportunity allows ticketed participants to dine with a published author in a relaxed and social atmosphere.

Kaleidoscope Young Authors Luncheon - \$25

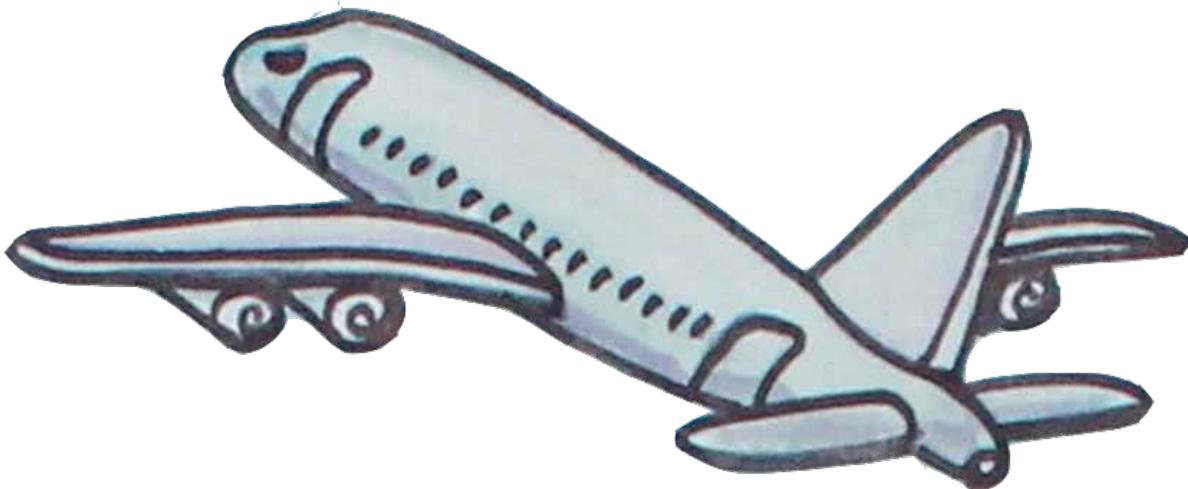
Sunday, March 12th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Celebrate with our 2016 Kaleidoscope writers grades K-12 from around Michigan. Go to the Student Involvement tab at www.michiganreading.org to enter a student from your school to be published. Buy tickets through conference online registration. Tickets **will not** be available onsite.

Author Lunch with David Wiesner - \$30

Sunday, March 12th, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Experience the imagination of David Wiesner, award winning picture-book author of *Tuesday*, *The Three Pigs*, and *Flotsam*. A three-time Caldecott Medal winner, David Wiesner has also illustrated more than twenty award-winning books for young readers. Join us in this exclusive ticketed-only luncheon to peek into the dreamlike world of David Wiesner.



Monday Breakout Sessions

Mark Raffler

MAISA Title I Supplementary Modules for Literacy

Come and learn more about early literacy materials that you can access for free. The MAISA Title I Supplementary Modules for ELA course provides on-demand training and materials for educators to accelerate students who are struggling with literacy concepts. This course and its modules were developed with a Title I Grant in partnership with the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) for use in all Michigan Schools.

Amy Romanowski & Heather Jensen

High Tech teaching with a Low Tech Budget

This session will help you develop a plan to implement/use technology in your classroom even with limited devices. We will show you apps and more to help connect your students to the world, giving them an authentic audience and purpose. Attendees will leave with resources to start implementation the next day.

Sue Ann Sharma & Mark Deschaine

Creating Culturally Relevant Discourse Through Digital Curation

Engage students in the examination of voice and perspective, through the intentional integration of culturally relevant materials. The digital curation framework provides a guide for teachers as they create, store, share and repurpose instructional materials to support culturally relevant literacy instruction in P-20 classrooms. In this session, discover how digital curation can be utilized to increase positive reader and writer identities while enhancing dialogic discourse. Learn how to transcend classroom silos and create preservation possibilities for your learning community.

Erica Hamilton & Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra

Newsworthy: Using Smithsonian's TweenTribune to Support Students' Literacy and Learning

Learn how to use the Smithsonian's FREE online tool, TweenTribune to identify and differentiate informational text based on students' needs and interests. This hands-on workshop session offers secondary teachers opportunities to explore the TweenTribune website, including ways this resource can be used to differentiate instruction, support ELLs, build information literacy skills, and encourage interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

Craig Steenstra & Andrew Steinman

Hyperreading, Hyperwriting and Multimodal Texts in the Classroom

Literacy is changing. Digital texts include hyperlinks, images, audio, video, and more. Educators should be able to utilize these various modalities to enhance instruction and help students learn how to use them effectively. In this interactive session, participants will explore how digital literacies are changing the ways we read and write as well as learn some ways to embed digital literacy into instruction.

Amber White, Casey Brownell & Jon Wargo

(Re)Imagining Sonic Literacy: Getting Students to Tune In

Composing with and through sound is an overlooked area of exploration in the classroom. How might we engage students in acts of sonic composing in order to develop a stronger, more embodied sense of the differences of the everyday? Come explore and (re)imagine ways to build soundscapes into your curriculum to see how "earwitnessing" can develop a writing community.

Closing Session moderated by Dr. Troy Hicks, Director of Chippewa River Writing Project.



Digital Literacy Day



**EVERY CHILD A SUPER READER:
7 STRENGTHS TO OPEN A WORLD
OF POSSIBLE**

featuring

Dr. Ernest Morrell



**March 13, 2017 • Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI**



Don't miss our other Digital Literacy Day speakers!

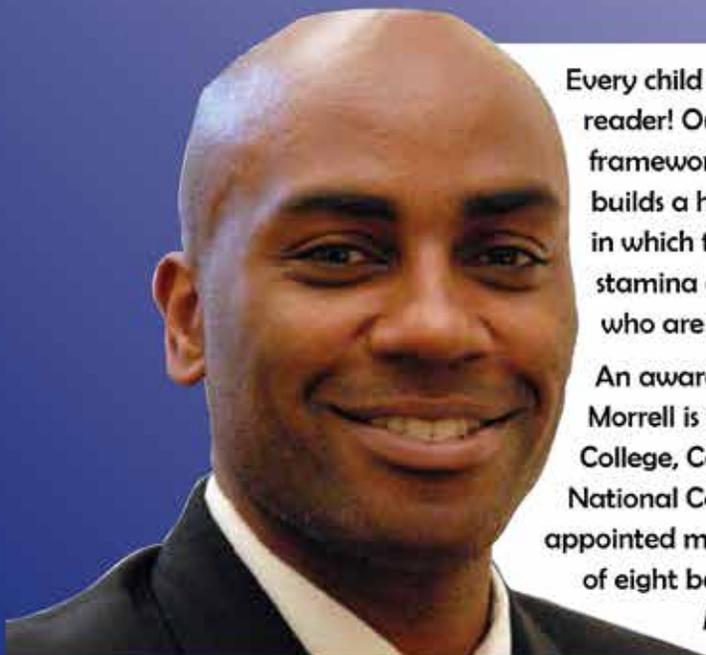
**Troy Hicks
Amber White
Craig Steenstra
Heather Jensen
Amy Romanowski**

**Mark Raffler
Erica Hamilton
Sue Sharma
Mark Deschaine
Andrew Steinman**

**Lindy Scripps
Jeremy Hyler
Aram Kabodian
Janet Neyer
*and more!***

**Digital Literacy Monday is included
with the 3 day registration fee of \$185
OR 1 day fee of \$150**

Registration opens
late October at
michiganreading.org



Every child deserves the opportunity to become a 24/7/365 super reader! Our *7 STRENGTHS MODEL*, built on a social-emotional framework that honors children's interests, cultures and stories, builds a hopeful, kind and literature-rich community of learners in which teachers can cultivate super readers who read with joy, stamina and purpose, who believe in themselves and others, and who are ready for college, career and civic engagement.

An award-winning author, teacher and researcher, Dr. Ernest Morrell is the Macy Professor of English Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. He is also Past-President of the National Council of Teachers of English, a Fellow AERA, and an appointed member of ILA's Literacy Research Panel. He is the author of eight books, including *Every Child a Super Reader* and *New Directions in Teaching English*.