



# The SOLANO READER

Reading Association  
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[www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org)

March 2009



**Elisa Kleven**, children’s author and illustrator  
is coming to SCRA!

March 5th, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon with Elisa Kleven as she shares her stories and illustrations. Her presentation is titled, “From Pumpkins to Coaches: Finding Magic in the Everyday.” You may know some of her wonderful picture books: THE LION AND THE LITTLE RED BIRD, THE PAPER PRINCESS, HOORAY, A PINATA!, THE PUDDLE PAIL, and A MONSTER IN THE HOUSE. Just to name a few! “Like all authors and illustrators, I love to make up characters and build stories and environments around them. To make my pictures I combine many media: watercolor, gouache, ink, colored pencils, pastels, markers, crayons -- anything that works! I also use lots of collage. As I did in childhood, I snip and glue old scraps into new shapes: a piece of wool becomes a lion’s mane or a child’s hair. A doily, snipped to bits, becomes a snow-storm.” Elisa Kleven. For more information about Elisa Kleven go to: [www.elisakleven.com](http://www.elisakleven.com). **Bring students and parents along for this event for FREE!** Register on line at [www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org).

**Rebekah Caplan** came to SCRA Saturday, January 24th. Fifty teachers attended a fantastic interactive writing and reading workshop. She shared research, effective best practices and demonstrated easy to follow lessons that bridge reading and writing. **We are bringing Rebekah back next year in January! Don’t miss this event next year!**



Two of the excellent strategies she demonstrated are described below. Popcorn Reading and Double Entry Journal are strategies to deepen comprehension, draw inferences and respond to the literature. This is a new, innovative way to do Popcorn Reading. These strategies can be used in second through twelfth grades.

**Popcorn Reading** – Help students go back into the text for details

Re-read (skim) a narrative like *The Jacket* by Gary Soto.

As you read, highlight words or phrases that stand out to you and grab your attention.

Put a star beside your favorite two lines.

Popcorn Reading rehearsal:

- Low Buzz: Read aloud your own two lines. (All students read simultaneously.)
- Read to your partner. Listen to your partner. Practice clarity and fluency.
- Popcorn reading: Use a “presentation voice” to read aloud to the class.
- Students read randomly and quickly until all have shared.

**Double Entry Journal** - Students respond to literature

Write a quotation from the narrative.	Quick Write: Why did you choose this quotation? (Response to Literature)
“The jacket was the color of day-old guacamole.”	This is a really awful brown-green color. He wouldn’t want to wear a jacket this color and would feel very ‘not cool’ if he did. Kids might make fun of him, and he would be embarrassed.

***Practical Strategies for English Learners***  
 taken from Teaching English Language Learners: A Differentiated Approach  
 by Carol Rothenberg and Douglas Fisher 2007

**Selecting Partners for Your English Learners**

Just as we know that having a clear purpose for teacher-directed instruction promotes higher achievement, defining the purpose of “buddy” work can make peer work far more effective

<b>If your purpose is to help the Student:</b>	<b>Select a partner who:</b>
Adjust to their new environment	Speaks the same language or has a similar background
Use more English	Speaks English and who is patient
Learn from peers	Enjoys teaching others and is helpful
Become part of the learning community	Is outgoing and connected with other students (but change partners as often as possible to encourage relationships)

**The Importance of Questions**

Researchers have found that of the approximately 80,000 questions the average teacher asks annually, 80% are at the literal or knowledge level (Gall, 1984; Watson&Young, 1986)

Are you challenging your students with questions that promote higher level thinking and comprehension?

<b>Levels of Questions</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Example</b>
Knowledge	Recall facts, definitions.	What is the capital of California?
Comprehension	Understand meaning.	Explain why Sacramento was selected as the state capital.
Application	Apply learning to a new situation.	What city in California would you select as the state capital today?
Analysis	Identify components. Make inferences	Why do you believe the legislature chose to move the capital from San Jose to Sacramento?
Synthesis	Use parts to create a new whole.	Design a state capital that will be useful in the 21st century.
Evaluation	Make judgments.	Assess the suitability of the present state capital and make recommendations for future development

**Book Review**

**Guided Writing**

by Lori D. Oczkus

Publisher: Heinemann

ISBN-10: 0325010714; ISBN-13: 978-0325010717



*Where was this book when I was teaching? I have always been inspired by Lori Oczkus' books. Her "Guided Writing" book is brilliant. Not only does it provide practical lessons and powerful results, but it shows in a teacher-friendly way how to scaffold and support all ages of writers for success.*

Reviewed by Joan E. Masaryk, Former Reading Specialist, VUSD

# Newspaper In Education (NIE) Resources



The **Vacaville Reporter** offers opportunities for students to read, write, and interact with the newspaper. For more information, visit [nieonline.com/thereporter](http://nieonline.com/thereporter) or call Shuana Manina at 453-8177.

The **Sacramento Bee** has many lessons, programs, and contests for the classroom. Check their website [www.sacbee.com/nie](http://www.sacbee.com/nie), for info and lessons.

The **Newspaper in Education Association** has a website, [www.cal-nie.org](http://www.cal-nie.org) with curriculum guides, a newsletter and more.

**Kid Scoop** has great resources for teachers, parents, and students to learn different ways to use the newspaper. Check out their website at [kidscoop.com/nie/index.html](http://kidscoop.com/nie/index.html)

# SCRA Writing Contest Entries Due March 4th!



~**Student's Writing Contest**  
Attention Students - Winners will be celebrated on April 29th.

~**Educator's Writing Contest**  
Attention Educators - New this year - Top two winners will receive dinner and a movie for two.

**Share your writing talent!**

For more information visit  
[www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org)



## Extra! Extra! Sacramento Bee E-edition

The Sacramento Bee can be delivered electronically to your classroom. The new electronic edition, or "e-edition," of The Bee has the same news, sports, features, business and entertainment as the printed edition, except without the inky fingers.

The e-edition of The Sacramento Bee combines the power of the press and the Internet. It's an electronic version of the newspaper -- an exact digital replica of the printed edition -- that you can view on any computer. It's easy to use and it's delivered fresh to your email inbox. Best of all, it's available to you and your students at no cost, thanks to the generous support of our subscribers and business partners.

Visit <http://guide.sacbee.com/119/story/2025.html> or our website at [www.solanoreader.org](http://www.solanoreader.org) and click "In the News" for the Sacramento Bee link.

## 34th Annual Solano County Writing Contest Judges Needed!



Teachers (active or retired) and other citizens interested in young people and their writing -- we encourage you to join us in helping to select the winners for this year's writing contest. Judges work with partners using a simple rubric. **District credit available for most districts--check with your district office.** *Come for any part of the judging.*

Two days of judging:

**Thurs., Mar. 10 and Tue. Mar. 17**  
from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Fairmont School  
1355 Marshall Road, Vacaville

Complimentary dinner.

*Please let us know if you plan to come and judge by calling Kathy Bergman, Fairmont School, 707-453-6240 or sign up on the web at*

[www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org).



## CAMPUS STAR 2009

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The **Reporter** is sponsoring its annual writing contest **Campus Star 2009**. The contest is open to grade 3-12 students. The Deadline is **March 20th, 2009**. For more information call Shauna Manina at 453-8177 at The Reporter.

Know a good website? Have you read a good professional book lately? Email your favorite website or book review to [denise@fracchia.com](mailto:denise@fracchia.com) and tell us about it! We will share as many as we can in our newsletters.

# Solano County Reading Association 2008-2009 Officers

## President

**Jackie Albright**

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District  
Phone (707) 421-4240  
president@solanoreaders.org

## Vice President,

**Jeanne Bane**

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District  
Phone (707) 864-1905  
vicepresident@solanoreaders.org

## Treasurer

**Katy Mangels**

Vacaville Unified School District, Retired  
treasurer@solanoreaders.org

## Secretary

**Marybeth Quig-Hartman**

Vallejo City Unified School District  
Phone (707) 556-8730  
recordingsecretary@solanoreaders.org  
correspondingsecretary@solanoreaders.org

## Membership

**Linnea Determann**

Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District  
Phone (707) 421-4165  
membership@solanoreaders.org

## Honor Council Representative

**Lisa Aspey**

Vacaville Unified School District  
Phone (707) 453-62210 x632  
honorcouncil@solanoreaders.org

## Legislation/Professional Development

**Barbara Debevec**

Vacaville Unified School District  
Phone (707) 453-6117  
legislation@solanoreaders.org

## Editor, *The SOLANO READER*

**Denise Fracchia**

Vacaville Unified School District  
Phone (707) 453-6165  
editor@solanoreaders.org



- March Newspapers in Education Week,  
[www.nieonline.com/thereporter.com](http://www.nieonline.com/thereporter.com),  
[www.kidscoop.com/escoop/index.html](http://www.kidscoop.com/escoop/index.html)
- Mar. 2 "Read Across America",  
[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)
- Mar. 4 SCRA Writing Contest Deadline**
- March 5 Elisa Kleven, Author & Illustrator**  
**Topic: From Pumpkins to Coaches:**  
**Finding Magic in the Everyday**  
**Location: SCOE**  
**Time: 4:30-6:00 p.m.**  
**Parents and students are welcome.**
- Mar. 10 & 17 Writing Contest Judging**  
**Fairmont Elem. School,**  
**1355 Marshall Rd., Vacaville**  
**Time: 4:30-7:30 p.m.**
- Mar. 20 Campus Star Entries Due  
[www.TheReporter.com](http://www.TheReporter.com)
- Apr. 20-26 TV Turn-Off Week,  
[www.tv-turnoff.org](http://www.tv-turnoff.org)
- Apr. 29 Celebration of Young Authors**  
**SCRA Writing Contest Awards,**  
**Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre,**  
**Time: 7-8 p.m.**
- May 12-18 National Children's Book Week 2009

*For more information and  
to register for events  
visit [www.solanoreaders.org](http://www.solanoreaders.org).*



## Celebrate Dr. Seuss's 104th Birthday on March 2nd

For classroom activities and biographical information check out this interactive website: <http://www.seussville.com>. For more Dr. Seuss information and activities visit these websites: <http://www.nea.org/readacross> and <http://www.seuss.org/seuss/>

