

ILLINOIS READS

A READING STATE OF MIND

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Tinley Park High School

6111 175th Street

Tinley Park, Illinois

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join IRC at the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival! Plan now to bring your families, students, and all book lovers to this fun and free event. Authors will be present. Bring your books and have them signed! Books will also be available for purchase from Anderson's Bookshops. At this event, IRC will also be honoring the Young Authors at a special celebration!

Visit our website for more information at www.illinoisreads.org

Birth-4

- Dirt's Journey*
by Sally M. Walker
- E-I-UFO: Old MacDonald Had a Farm*
by Zach von Zonk
- Hugged by the Night*
by Harold Green III
- Inventions to Count On: A Celebration of Black Inventors: A Picture Book*
by Dana Marie Miroballi
- POP! Goes the Nursery Rhyme*
by Betsy Bird
- Silly Puppies: Baby's First Giggles*
by Heidi Bee Roemer

K-2

- Emilia's Corte*
by Veronica Castillo and Juleesa Espinoza
- Give Back*
by Gina Bellisario
- Piece Out*
by Alex Willan
- Seasons on the Farm*
by Chelsea Tornetto
- Smithy and Me*
by Darcy Day Zoells
- The Scariest Story You've Ever Heard*
by Ron Keres

3-5

- Ava the Monster Slayer: Sleepover Superheroes*
by Lisa Maggiore
- Hulk Teach!*
by Jeffrey Brown
- Rachel Carson's Wonder-Filled World: How the Scientist, Writer, and Nature Lover Changed the Environmental Movement*
by Kate Hannigan
- Rock Paper Incisors: A Skunk and Badger Story*
by Amy Timberlake
- The Curse of Great Winter Academy: Choose Your Own Adventure*
by Jessika Fleck
- The Gift of Freedom: How Harriet Tubman Rescued Her Brothers*
by Glennette Tilley Turner

6-8

- How the Ghost Army Hoodwinked Hitler: The Story of American Artistry and Deception in World War II*
by Rebecca Siegel
- Millie of the Manor: A Graphic Novel*
by Karina Evans and Andrea Bell
- Severe and Unusual Weather*
by Jessie Ann Foley
- The Chronicles of Viktor Valentine*
by Z Brewer
- The Scott Fenwick Diaries: A Novel*
by Kristin Nilsen
- The Song of Orphan's Garden*
by Nicole M. Hewitt

9-12

- American Spirits: The Famous Fox Sisters and the Mysterious Fad that Haunted a Nation*
by Barb Rosenstock
- Before Takeoff*
by Adi Alsaid
- Dream by the Shadows*
by Logan Karlie
- Mae: The Definitive Edition*
by Gene Ha
- Many Voices: Building Erie, the Canal that Changed America*
by Laurie Lawlor
- The Corruption of Hollis Brown*
by K. Ancrum

Adult

- Amity: A Novel*
by Nathan Harris
- Death of the Author: A Novel*
by Nnedi Okorafor
- Fagin the Thief: A Novel*
by Allison Epstein
- Remember You Will Die: A Novel*
by Eden Robins
- The Ex-Girlfriend Murder Club*
by Gloria Chao
- Tractor Wars: John Deere, Henry Ford, International Harvester, and the Birth of Modern Agriculture*
by Neil Dahlstrom



Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival



Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at Tinley Park High School, 6111 175th Street, Tinley Park, Illinois

The Illinois Reading Council is excited to share that we will be hosting a new version of the Illinois Statewide Young Authors Conference at the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival.

At the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival, the Illinois Reading Council will be celebrating the written work of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade along with the Illinois Reads Authors. All students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, including those in special programs, are invited to participate. Each spring, schools are encouraged to select their Young Authors who will attend and be celebrated at the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival.

The Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival is a fun and free event for ALL families, students, and book lovers and ALL are invited to attend from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. During the Book Festival, the Young Authors, chaperones, and other book festival participants will attend sessions led by Illinois Reads Authors from the 2026 Illinois Reads Book List.

During the Young Authors Celebration, the Young Authors will be provided a lunch and can meet with an Illinois Reads Author where they can share their book. Young Authors will also receive their Illinois Reads Young Author Certificate and their manuscript will be officially affixed with the seal as an honored Illinois Reads Young Author. Please note that all schools must provide chaperones who will accompany their Young Authors attending the Illinois Reads and Young Authors Book Festival.

To find out more, visit the Illinois Reading Council website at www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org!