

Language and Literacy
Researchers of Canada



L'Association canadienne des
chercheurs en langue et litt ratie

Fall 2022 LLRC Graduate Students Newsletter

By LLRC Graduate Representatives

(Yina Liu, University of Alberta; Rasha Qaisi, University of Windsor)



The Graduate Student Committee is starting the academic year with this Fall newsletter to support and connect our current and soon to be graduate student members to the LLRC/ACCLL. In this fall edition, we reach out in academic kinship and attend to current happenings in our Canadian language and literacies landscape.

Le Comit  des  tudiant.e.s dipl m .e.s souhaite d marrer l'ann e acad mique avec ce bulletin d'automne pour appuyer nos membres actuels et futur.e.s  tudiant.e.s dipl m .e.s et les inviter   se connecter   la communaut  de l'ACCLL. Dans cette  dition d'automne, nous tendons la main   la communaut  acad mique et nous nous int ressons aux  v nements courants dans le contexte canadien des langues et des litt raties.

Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada (LLRC) is a special interest group (SIG) within the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies (CACS), which is a constituent association of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE). LLRC is comprised of individuals who are interested in language and literacy education and research, particularly, but not exclusively, within the Canadian context.

We define “literacy” broadly, understanding that what it means to be literate is situational, and that individuals generally acquire numerous literacies as they navigate different linguistic spheres. In keeping with this notion, our members promote understanding of literacy acquisition in a range of developmental, socio-cultural, and media contexts. The Language and Literacy Researchers are partners with Language and Literacy: A Canadian Education E-Journal.

L’Association canadienne des chercheurs en langue et littératie (ACCLL) est un groupe d’intérêt particulier au sein de l’Association canadienne pour l’étude du curriculum (ACÉC), elle-même sous l’égide de la Société canadienne pour l’étude de l’éducation (SCÉÉ). L’ACCLL réunit des passionnés de recherche et d’éducation en langue et littératie au Canada principalement, sans s’y limiter.

Nous donnons une large définition à « littératie », en ce sens qu’être lettré est une question de situation et qu’on acquiert généralement diverses littératies en explorant différentes sphères linguistiques. En tenant compte de cette notion, nos membres conçoivent l’acquisition de la littératie dans un éventail de contextes de croissance, de société, de culture et d’information. Les chercheurs en langue et littératie travaillent en partenariat avec Language and Literacy: A Canadian Education E-Journal.

[Find More Information About LLRC](#)



Yina Liu, University of Alberta

Hello everyone, I am Yina Liu, a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education at University of Alberta. I am very grateful and excited to be this 2022-2023 year's LLRC Graduate Representative, together with Rasha Qaisi. I am currently working on data analysis for my doctoral research and started to write. My research is about looking at digital literacy practices of young children from first-generation newcomers to Canada and newcomer parents' perspectives towards their children's digital practices.

With working with Rasha, we are planning to have more activities for graduate students coming in the winter of 2023. I would love to chat with you or hear about your stories as graduate students. If you would like to reach out, please email me at yina@ualberta.ca

Looking forward to seeing you in LLRC activities.

Yina



Rasha Qaisi, University of Windsor

Dear Reader,

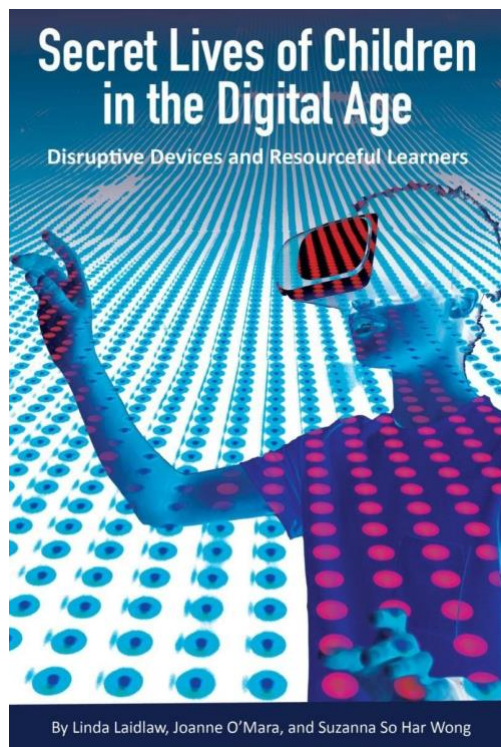
Hi! My name is Rasha Qaisi, and I am your 2022-2023 LLRC Graduate Student Representative alongside Yina Liu. I am a second-year Ph.D. of Educational Studies student focusing on Social/Cultural/Political Contexts of Education. I have taught at the elementary level for five consecutive years, where I used my teacher role to promote inclusive literature, community engagement, and focus on increasing learner readership. Now, in my Ph.D. studies, my research interests include multiliteracies, critical literacy, and social justice education. In my free time, I love listening to podcasts and music (no genre is off-limits) and buying more books than I can probably read!

In my role as your Graduate Student Representative, I look forward to working with all of you! To better serve you, I would love to hear more about the services and activities you would like to see implemented. Feel free to reach out at qaisi@uwindsor.ca

Cheers,

Rasha

Book Reviews and Recommendations



Book Link: <https://myersedpress.presswarehouse.com/browse/book/9781975504717/Secret-Lives-of-Children-in-the-Digital-Age>

by **Yina Liu** on November 20, 2022

I have recently read the book, *Secret Lives of Children in the Digital Age* by Linda Laidlaw, Joanne O'Mara and Suzanna Wong, which was published in 2022. Linda Laidlaw and Suzanna Wong, two of the authors, are Canadian literacy scholars as well as our LLRC members. With rich data, the book zoomed in on children's digital practices and learning in both Canadian and Australian contexts. Additionally, the authors also pay attention to families and teachers' voices, tensions, and perspectives towards children's digital literacy practices. One of my favorite things about this book is how it looked deeply into the ways of parents and teachers controlling children's digital literacy practices and digital surveillance at both home and school.

Exploring Diversity and Inclusivity

In Children's Literature

By Rasha Qaisi



Little People, Big Dreams: Nelson Mandela

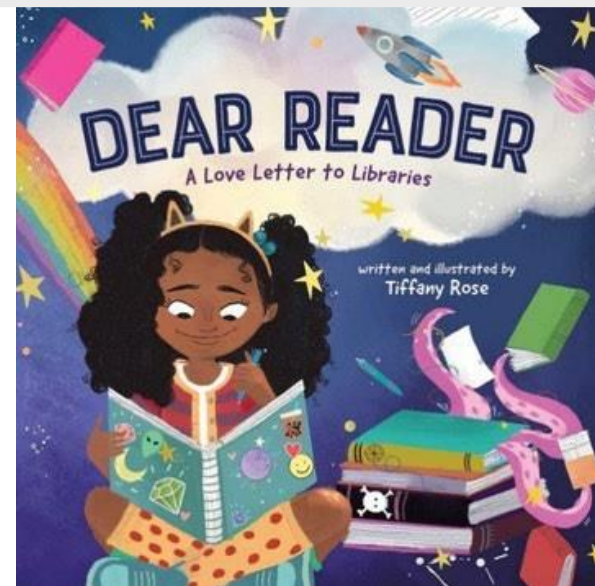
Title: Little People, Big Dreams: Nelson Mandela
Author: Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara
Illustrator: Alison Hawkins
Published: January 2022

Little People, Big Dreams has over 100 books dedicated to young children exploring the lives and ideas of the world's greatest personalities. This one focuses on freedom fighter Nelson Mandela and the ideas that changed the world forever. This book is empowering in its focus on anti-racism, bravery, and resiliency.

Dear Reader: A Love Letter to Libraries

Title: Dear Reader: A Love Letter to Libraries
Author and Illustrator: Tiffany Rose
Published: January 2022

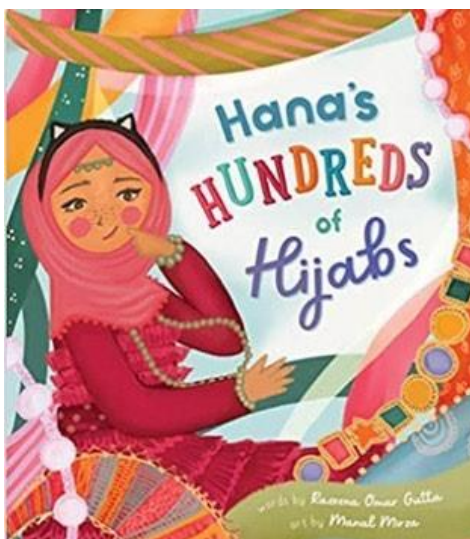
In her latest publication, Tiffany Rose shares the extraordinary story of a young girl who pens love letters to libraries. Rose's story powerfully expresses the importance of diversity and the need for more inclusive voices and stories. This story explores just how powerful it is for all of us to read and hear stories about people who look like us!



Hana's Hundreds of Hijabs

Title: Hana's Hundreds of Hijabs
Author: Razeena Omar Gutta
Illustrator: Manal Mirza
Published: September 2022

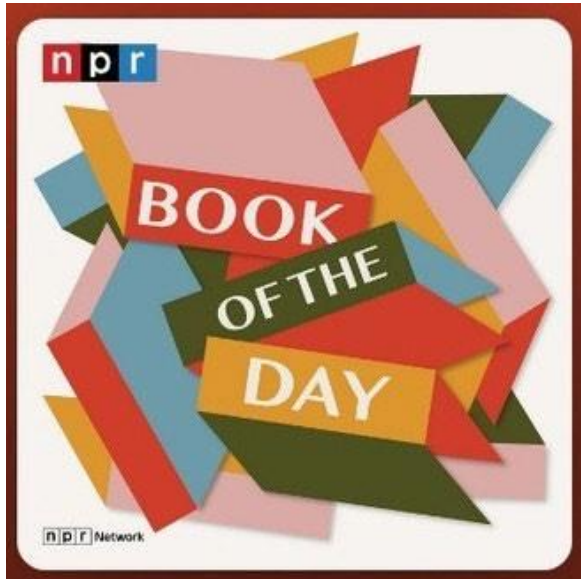
Hana has a problem! Her hijab collection has simply gotten out of control! With her clever problem-solving skills, Hana devises a plan to get her hundreds of hijabs under control. This humorous tale is a story of a young girl celebrating her identity while expanding her community.



Podcasts For Productive Minds

Listen & Learn
With some of our favorite
podcasts

By Rasha Qaisi



Book of the Day, npr

Are you looking for your next great read? npr has you covered with their Book of the Day podcast. A 15-minute collection of episodes that give you a quick rundown of all the books everyone else is talking about! Book of the Day explores various genres and topics. Book of the Day explores books that focus on immigrant stories, psychological thrillers, romance, music, environmental issues, and politics, among various others.

A few of our favourite books discussed on npr's podcast are *We Were Dreamers: An Immigrant Superhero Origin Story* by Simu Liu, *If I Survive You* by Jonathan Escoffery, *Fen, Bog and Swamp* by Annie Proulx.

Book of the Day is produced and presented by npr and is accessible on Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.

Philosophize This! Stephen Wes

Philosophize This! with Stephen West explores all topics related to culture, literature, books, and contemporary society. Wes explores and shares classical and contemporary literature and ideas that continue to shape our world and how we experience it. West discusses topics by prominent philosophers such as Simone Weil, Guy Debord, Jose Ortega, Max Weber, and Jurgen Habermas.

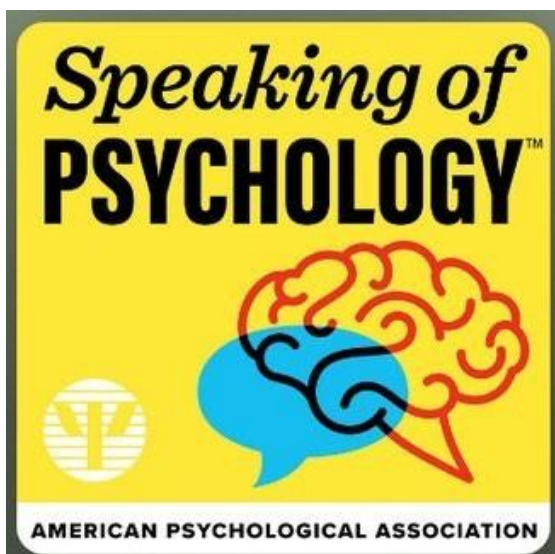
In such a contemporary world as our own, Philosophize This! helps break down the ideas of where we came from and where we are going from a philosophical perspective.

When reading philosophical texts is not enough, listen and learn!



Speaking of Psychology, APA

Speaking Psychology, by the American Psychological Association (APA), presents some of the most current and prominent research in psychology to people of all disciplines and fields of study. While exploring new research in psychology, this podcast focuses on how to apply the research to your everyday life. All topics are discussed with the people who are leading the conversation in psychological research. With Speaking of Psychology, you will learn how to cope with news overload, fairness, procrastination, belonging, and so much more.



Please listen with care! Listener discretion is always advised.

Celebrating Our Recent LLRC Graduate Student



Jing Jin has received her PhD in the Department of Elementary Education at the University of Alberta. Her research interests include children's literature, young adult literature, and bilingual and biliteracy education. She got her M.A. degree of children's literature from Ocean University of China, and the M.Ed. degree from University of Saskatchewan. Her recent publication appears in *Children's Literature in Education*.

Jing's doctoral study explored the use of children's literature in English-Chinese bilingual education in the Canadian context. She examined the types of children's literature that are used in bilingual education, the roles that children's literature plays in students' bilingual and biliteracy development, and how teachers' and parents' experiences and perspectives might influence their use of children's literature. Findings revealed that levelled readings and classic works were predominant in the Chinese children's literature being used in the programs, and that these works tended to be decontextualized and depoliticized, while the English children's literature selected was more often used for aesthetic and pleasure reading. Moreover, Chinese children's literature that had been translated into English and children's books from Canada (as opposed to the US and other English-dominant countries) were lacking. Children's literature plays a variety of important roles in bilingual education, including relationship founder, enhancer, and bond; language and literacy learning resources and bridge; and cultural agent.

**We would love to share the call for the 2023 LLRC Pre-conference that is themed
in
*Reckoning with Our Past, Interrogating Our Present, and Reimagining Our
Future.***

This year's pre-conference will be in a hybrid format on May 27, 2023. All proposals should be submitted using our Google Form (<https://forms.gle/E4DosfsfhFjJM9iR8>). Inquiries can be directed to pre-conference chairs, Nancy Bell and Marika Kunnas at llrcpreconf2023@gmail.com.

Deadline for Submission: January 25, 2023

Please kindly check [the English Call](#) and [the French Call](#) for more information and specific submission guidelines.

Language and Literacy: Reckoning with our Past, Interrogating our Present, and Reimagining our Future

19th Annual Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada (LLRC)
Hybrid Pre-Conference
May 27, 2023
York University
Co-sponsored by *Language and Literacy: A Canadian e-Journal*

Langue et litt ratie : Confronter notre pass , interroger notre pr sent et r imaginer notre avenir

19e pr congr s annuel de l'Association canadienne des chercheurs en langue et litt ratie
(ACCLL)
Le 27 mai 2023
Universit  York
Coparrain  par *Language and Literacy: A Canadian e-Journal*

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Hope everyone has wonderful holidays and enjoy the winter break!

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Contact Our Graduate Representatives
Yina Liu, yina@ualberta.ca
Rasha Qaisi, qaisi@uwindsor.ca