

# Keynote Speakers

**SUNDAY**



**Gay Su Pinnell**

*Author and professor emerita  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH*

**The Goal of Excellence:  
Literate Lives**

We must create a common vision to make schools places where students become readers and writers for a lifetime. Examine the meaning of excellence in literacy education and the challenges that face educators and citizens today. What are the roles of classroom teachers, administrators, and intervention teachers?

**MONDAY**



**Katie Wood Ray**

*Author and researcher  
Waynesville, NC*

**Read-Aloud: An Essential Tool  
for the Teaching of Writing**

The more teachers understand about the role reading plays in learning to write, the more purposeful they can be in selecting texts to support young writers and reading these texts aloud with intention. Explore the powerful tool of reading aloud in the writing workshop.

**TUESDAY**



**Jack Gantos**

*Children's author  
Boston, MA*

**I Spy a Story**

What do we mean when we say "every picture tells a story?" Peek into how pictures play hide-and-seek with language as they reveal a narrative world of pleasure in picture books and chapter books. Join one of America's favorite authors and the 2010 recipient of the NCTE/ALAN Award for his contribution to the field of children's literature as he shares his insights.

**ABOUT OUR CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Gay Su Pinnell** is a professor emerita at The Ohio State University. She has extensive experience in classroom teaching and field-based research, and in developing comprehensive approaches to literacy education. Dr. Pinnell has influenced the teaching practices of educators nationwide. She has received the International Reading Association's Albert J. Harris Award for research, the Charles A. Dana Foundation Award for her contributions to the field of education, and is a member of the Reading Hall of Fame. Together with Irene Fountas, she has authored numerous books and videos in the field of literacy instruction and staff development. A few of their publications include *When Readers Struggle*, *Teaching for Comprehending & Fluency, Grades K-8: Thinking, Talking, and Writing About Reading*, *The Continuum of Literacy Learning: A Guide to Teaching*, and *The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System*.

Between her passion for elementary writing instruction and a love of children's literature, **Katie Wood Ray** found herself asking, "What if children were introduced to key qualities of good writing in the context of illustrations?" This question led to the research behind *In Pictures and In Words*. The answer was simple yet powerful: "The thinking students do while reading picture books can help them see the connection between what words and illustrations do to make meaning." As the author of *Already Ready*, *Study Driven*, *About the Authors*, and *What You Know By Heart*, she provides resources that transform writing instruction and help children discover a lifelong love of writing. A former associate professor at Western Carolina University, she is now a full-time writer and researcher of the teaching of writing.

**Jack Gantos** is the author of over 40 books for children including picture books, short stories, upper elementary and middle school novels, as well as adult literature. The seeds of his writing career were planted in sixth grade, when he read his sister's diary and decided he could write better than she could. Two of Mr. Gantos' most recognized characters are Rotten Ralph and Joey Pigza. His works have received the Newbery Honor, Printz Honor, Sibert Honor, and National Book Award Honor. The Disney Channel has produced and broadcast two animated Rotten Ralph specials based on Mr. Gantos' popular book series. While a professor at Emerson College, he developed the master's degree program in Children's Literature, Writing and Publishing. His newest book is *Dead End in Norvelt*.