

### Writing Revolution Book Study

The President of the Alabama Literacy Association is hosting a book study of Natalie Wexler's book *The Writing Revolution* starting in January. Because we are part of ALA, Plains will advertise, but, honestly, it feels needy of the President for this to be in our newsletter. Nonetheless, you can use the code to sign up.



## November 2023

### Opelika Book Festival

The Opelika Book Festival will be Saturday November 4th from 9:00-4:00 at the Opelika Public Library.

This is our Plains event for the fall because, frankly, we cannot do better than what Opelika is offering our reader-community!

Go to the [Opelika Library website](#) for more information.



### Overheard at the ALA FALL CONFERENCE Held October 3-4, 2023

#### Natalie Wexler on Comprehension

- *Bumps in test scores fade after 5th grade because of the increased intensity of content-specific vocabulary and comprehension expectations in secondary schools.*
- *Research shows that an increase of 30 minutes of Social Studies can increase reading scores because of the exposure to knowledge and vocabulary. All kids need access to knowledge and vocabulary at all levels.*
- *Research shows struggling readers can outperform strong readers on comprehension tasks for high-interest texts.*
- *All kids need access to complex sentence structures and complex syntax.*
- *Cognitive load can be defined as the burden on working memory. Students with little background knowledge have greater strains on working memory so their cognitive loads are filled faster.*

#### Cheryl Lundy-Swift on Data

- *Know the purpose of your data. There is a difference between a check-up and an autopsy.*
- *Turn data into actionable steps.*
  - *Here's what...*
  - *So what?*
  - *Now what?*

#### Craig Boykin on Post-Covid Learning

- *Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly. (Quoted from M. Adams)*
- *We cannot see trauma. Over time, trauma in a people can look like culture.*
- *Education is constructed brilliantly but not for the 21st century student.*
- *Martin Luther King's message was equality—treating everyone the same. The educational focus for now should be on equity—giving kids what they need to be successful.*

#### Betty Weeden and Montasha Britton on Reading

- *There are three intentions for read-alouds—To Inspire, To Develop Language, and To Instruct.*
- *Our practices can show students how wonderful reading can be.*

#### Michelle Hopf on Conferencing

- *All kids deserve an opportunity to talk to their teacher about what they are reading.*
- *Give yourself grace. Give what you can to conferencing, starting with informal discussions.*