



*Long Island Language Arts Council
Nassau Reading Council
2011 Spring Conference - March 25, 2011
Literacy: The Promise of the Future
Keynote Speakers: Sharon Taberski and Todd Strasser*

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November 10, 2010

Dear Colleague:

On Friday, March 25, 2011, LILAC and NRC will host our annual spring conference at the Melville Marriott. We are very excited to announce our conference title and keynote speakers for this year: *The Promise of the Future*

Sharon Taberski

Sharon is a nationally recognized educator, author, and presenter. A teacher for 28 years, Sharon currently works in school districts throughout the country helping teachers set up reading and writing workshops, and think systematically about how to best accomplish their goals. She presents keynotes and seminars throughout the US and Canada. Sharon served on NCTE's editorial board and on the development committee for the Primary Literacy Standards (more commonly known as New Standards) by the National Center on Education and the Economy. Sharon's works include *Comprehension from the Ground Up*, a companion DVD, *Lessons from the Ground Up*, *It's ALL About Comprehension*, *Teaching K-3 Readers from the Ground Up*, *On Solid Ground: Strategies for Teaching Reading K-3*, the video series *A Close-Up Look at Teaching Reading: Focusing on Children and Our Goals*, *Moving Forward with RTI: Reading and Writing Activities for Every Instructional Setting and Tier*, *Morning, Noon, and Night Poems to Fill Your Day*, and *Penguins Are Waterbirds*.

Todd Strasser

Born in New York City, Todd went to school in Roslyn. His best subject was science. He liked to read, but had difficulty with spelling and grammar, and struggled in English. Todd went to college at New York University for a few years, and then dropped out. He lived on a commune and then in Europe where he was a street musician. All the while, he wrote songs and poems and lots of letters to his friends back home. After studying literature and writing at Beloit College, Todd worked as a reporter at the *Middletown Times Herald-Record* newspaper and later at Compton Advertising in New York City. In 1978, he sold his first novel, *Angel Dust Blues*, and used the money to start the Dr. Wing Tip Shoo fortune cookie company. For the next 12 years, Todd sold many more fortune cookies than books. In 1990, Todd moved to Westchester County. He is the author of more than 120 books for teens and middle graders including the best-selling *Help! I'm Trapped In ...* series, and numerous award-winning YA novels including *The Wave*, *Give A Boy A Gun*, *The Accident*, *Can't Get There From Here*, *Boot Camp*, and *If I Grow Up*. His newest series for grades 3 - 6 is *The Tardy Boys*. Several of his books have been adapted for television. His books have been translated into more than a dozen languages, and he has also written for television, newspapers, and magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and *The New York Times*. Todd now divides his time between writing books and speaking at schools and conferences.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to share best practices, inspiring ideas, and your passion for English language arts and reading with your colleagues across Long Island.

We invite you to consider presenting a workshop either directly related to the theme or on another, timely topic. There will be 22 workshops, spanning grades K-12. We will make every effort to choose a variety of workshops to present the most appealing choices for conference attendees at all levels of instruction.

The presenter registration fee for each presenter will be the discounted fee of \$40, rather than the early registration member fee of \$85 or \$115 nonmember fee. This discounted fee will be for up to two presenters per workshop. Additional presenters must pay the \$85 member fee or \$115 non-member fee. Also, please be aware that at least one presenter per workshop must be a current member of either LILAC or NRC.

Kindly email your workshop proposal to agroth@rockypoint.k12.ny.us by 12/31/10. If you have any questions, please contact me at 631-849-7562 or agroth@rockypoint.k12.ny.us.

Sincerely,

Anja Groth
Workshop Chair