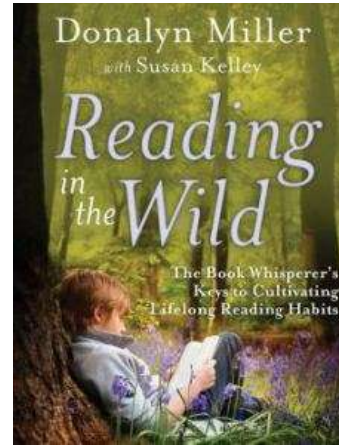
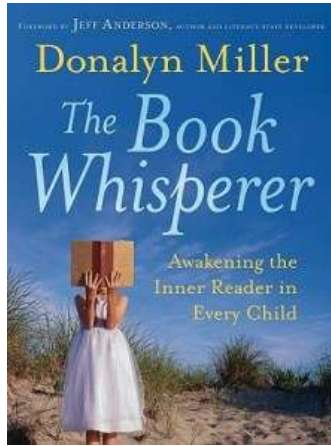


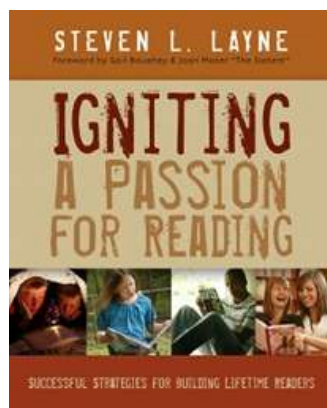
2015 TALE Conference Keynote Speakers: Donalyn Miller and Steven Layne



Donalyn Miller will deliver a keynote presentation at the 2015 TALE Conference. Known as “The Book Whisperer,” Donalyn Miller currently teaches fifth grade in Fort Worth, Texas. She has worked with a wide variety of upper elementary and middle school students and is beloved for her presence on social media, online, at conferences, and in the classroom. Donalyn Miller facilitates a community blog called “The Nerdy Book Club” and co-authors a column for Scholastic’s *Principal-to-Principal Newsletter*. Miller has published articles about reading in journals such as *The Reading Teacher* and *Educational Leadership* and in periodicals such as *The Washington Post*.

Donalyn Miller has published two professional books: *The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child* (2009) and *Reading in the Wild: The Book Whisperer’s Keys to Cultivating Lifelong Reading Habits* (2014). Miller emphasizes that students need to make their own choices about reading material and writing topics, and they need a lot of time to read and write. Miller’s students read forty or more books every school year. She requires that students read books from nine different genres; there is plenty of room for choice so students can read more books in the genres and authors they like. All students, especially developing readers, need more reading time so they can become stronger, not weaker readers with each year.

Miller’s new book *Reading in the Wild* was written with reading teacher Susan Kelley. Miller and Kelley sought to learn more about the reading habits of lifelong readers, or “wild readers,” so they gathered responses from over 800 adult readers in order to figure out what makes lifelong readers. They found that wild readers dedicate time to read, self-select reading material, share books and reading with other people, have reading plans, and show preferences for genres, authors, and topics. In addition, time spent reading has a positive correlation with students’ gains in academic achievement. The Book Whisperer’s goal is to help students become capable and empowered readers.



Dr. Steven L. Layne will deliver a keynote presentation at the 2015 TALE Conference. Dr. Layne works as Professor of Literacy Education at Judson University in Elgin, Illinois. He directs Judson's Master of Education in Literacy program and teaches courses in children's and adolescent literature. Dr. Layne taught elementary and junior high students for fifteen years and also traveled around the United States as a national literacy consultant. He writes in many genres for different audiences, including scholarly research, young adult literature, children's picture books, and poetry/gift books.

His professional book *Igniting a Passion for Reading: Successful Strategies for Building Lifetime Readers* (2009) offers practical ways to engage and inspire readers from kindergarten through high school. Layne describes process and activities to build literacy so that students love reading in its own right. Featured methods include book discussions, book chats, reading lounges, the "Golden Recommendation Bookcase," interest inventories for students, and more techniques. Dr. Layne's engaging book, the result of experience and research, is inspired by what he has learned from fellow teachers and from his own students. *Igniting a Passion for Reading* further includes "From the Trenches" sidebars as well as narratives contributed by current writers for children and teens about the teacher or librarian who influenced their own love of reading. His forthcoming professional book is *In Defense of Read Aloud: Sustaining Best Practice*.

Steven Layne's novels for young adult readership are *Mergers* (2007) and the Paradise series, which includes *This Side of Paradise* (2001) and *Paradise Lost* (2011). *This Side of Paradise* won the Hal Clement Award for Best New Science Fiction Novel for Young Adults in the U.S. and was on the Texas Lone Star Top Twenty List. Layne's YA books feature action-packed suspense, speculative elements, and dystopian themes.

Dr. Layne has written many picture books. *Love the Baby* (2007) has two companion books, *Share with Brother* (2010) and *Stay With Sister* (2012). Popular titles include *Thomas's Sheep and the Great Geography Test* (1998) and the companion book *Thomas's Sheep and the Spectacular Science Project* (2004). His alphabet and counting books include *T Is for Teachers: A School Alphabet* (2007), its companion book *Number 1 Teacher: A School Counting Book* (2008), and *P Is for Princess: A Royal Alphabet* (2007). His teacher-oriented picture books includes *The Teachers' Night Before Christmas* (2001), *The Principal's Night Before Christmas* (2004), *The Teacher's Night Before Halloween* (2008), and more. Dr. Layne's poetry books include *Life's Literacy Lessons: Poems for Teachers* (2001), *Verses for Dad's Heart* (2004), and *Verses for Mom's Heart* (2005).