



# W N Y L I T 2 0 2 3 H A N D B O O K

WNY Literacy Instructors Together

| SPONSORED BY THE PARTNERS OF THE WNY LITERACY INITIATIVE

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# WNY LIT: LITERACY INSTRUCTORS TOGETHER

## GROUP FAQs

### 1. What is the mission of WNY LIT?

Our mission is to support teachers in their efforts to learn more about evidence-based reading instruction; exchange ideas and best practices; ask questions and receive support; and create a community of educators working together to improve reading instruction for all students.

### 2. Who is this group for? Is this group for me?

This group was created for teachers, by teachers.

### 3. When does this group meet? How do I register?

This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month, alternating between virtual and in-person meetings. Please see our calendar for the exact dates. Here is the [Eventbrite registration link for in-person meetings](#), here is [the link for virtual meetings](#).

### 4. Where can I find your calendar of meetings and topics?

Please find the calendar on page 4 of this PDF.

### 5. Who are the leaders of WNY LIT?

- Kristin Corser, Literacy Coach Grades 3-5, Former Classroom Teacher, Akron
- Janine Detine, Literacy Coach Grades K-2, Former Classroom Teacher, Akron
- Lori Goventtio, Co-founder WNY Literacy Collaborative / K-12 Reading Specialist / Coach, Iroquois
- Michelle Hill, Co-founder WNY Literacy Collaborative / K-12 Reading Specialist / Coach, Iroquois
- Kathleen Lysek, Literacy Interventionist, Tapestry Charter School
- Sean Morrissey, 5th Grade Teacher, Frontier
- Stacey Pellicano, Dyslexia Services of WNY / Coach / Advocate

### 6. How can I contact the leaders at WNY LIT?

Please email [wny.lit@gmail.com](mailto:wny.lit@gmail.com).

**7. Does WNY LIT have a sponsor?**

WNY LIT is sponsored by the partners in the WNY Literacy Initiative. You can learn more about this initiative [here](#).

**8. I have a great idea for a speaker / topic. Who should I contact?**

Please email [wny.lit@gmail.com](mailto:wny.lit@gmail.com).

**9. What is this group NOT?**

This group is not a forum about 'balanced literacy' or for using the names of specific people or schools in any negative manner. Rather, the goal is to share what is working to improve reading instruction in classrooms.

**10. Is there a list of common literacy instruction terms / resources?**

Please refer to the [WNY Literacy Collaborative website](#). This is a great place to start your journey - and it's created by two of WNY LIT's local leaders, Michelle Hill and Lori Govenettio.

**11. How can I become a member of this group and added to the email distro? Where do I register for the events?**

If you are an educator, please email [wny.lit@gmail.com](mailto:wny.lit@gmail.com) or register at the Eventbrite links listed here. This is the [in-person event registration link](#), this is [the virtual event registration link](#).

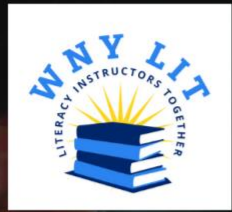
**12. Where can I find the zoom link for the virtual meetings?**

Please email [tarja@wnyeducationalliance.org](mailto:tarja@wnyeducationalliance.org).

**13. What is the physical address of the WNY LIT in-person meetings?**

Most in-person meetings will take place at The Willow Room, 6676 Lincoln Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094. Please refer to our calendar to confirm.

# WNY LIT 2023



## CALENDAR

### WNY LIT: LITERACY INSTRUCTORS TOGETHER



**AUG  
09**

WNY Literacy Collaborative  
Introductions & FAQs  
Meeting: Virtual, 6-8pm

K. Corser, J. Detine, Literacy Coaches  
Building Background Knowledge  
Meeting format TBD 6-8pm

**SEPT  
13**

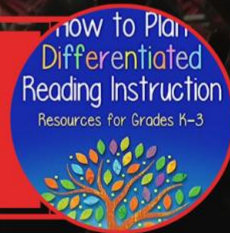


**OCT  
11**

Sean Morrissey, 5th Grade Teacher  
Building Vocabulary K-12  
6676 Lincoln Ave., Lockport 6-8pm

Kathleen Lysek, Literacy Interventionist  
Small Group Reading Instruction  
Location: In-person TBD, 6-8pm

**NOV  
08**



**DEC  
13**

Stephanie Stollar  
Assessments  
Meeting: Virtual, 6-8pm

**Email [wny.lit@gmail.com](mailto:wny.lit@gmail.com) to register**

## DESCRIPTION OF WNY LIT 2023 EVENTS

### **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9 – “Teaching Reading is Rocket Science” Virtual – 6:00-8:00 pm - Moderators: WNY Literacy Collaborative**

**A welcome meeting & discussion of the seminal [Louisa Moats article](#) above**

This will be a virtual meeting moderated by Lori Govenettio and Michelle Hill of the [WNY Literacy Collaborative](#). Every educator is welcome to join us for this introductory meeting! Along with discussing the article “Teaching Reading is Rocket Science,” we will also explain the mission and goals of our group, what we have planned for the year, and learn more about you and what you’re looking for as an educator. This group is by teachers...for teachers, all about evidence-based reading instruction in the classroom!

Lori Govenettio and Michelle Hill are both co-founders of the WNY Literacy Collaborative, as well as K-12 Reading Specialists and Literacy Coaches.

### **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13 - “Building Background Knowledge” Presentation by Janine Detine & Kristin Corser, Literacy Coaches Location: The Willow Room, 6676 Lincoln Ave, Lockport, NY 14094 In person meeting, 6:00-8:00 pm**

With comprehension being one of the five pillars of literacy, building background knowledge is an important part of reading instruction that enhances comprehension, but also one of the most complex. How are building and activating background knowledge different? Come listen to Janine Detine and Kristin Corser, Literacy Coaches in grades K-2 and 3-5 respectively.

This year, building background knowledge is a school-wide focus at Akron Elementary School, where they work, and Janine and Kristin are ready to share their wealth of ideas, research and experience, not only from their work as coaches but also as former, longtime classroom teachers.

**Leave this session knowing how to unlock the key to comprehension.  
This presentation is recommended for teachers of all grade levels and content areas.**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11 - “The Science of Reading Beyond Phonics: The Importance of Building Vocabulary K-12”**

**Presentation by Sean Morrisey, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

**Location: The Willow Room, 6676 Lincoln Ave, Lockport, NY 14094**

**In person meeting, 6:00-8:00 pm**

Are you interested in the Science of Reading beyond phonics? Are you interested in how to teach vocabulary? Are you interested in building your students’ vocabulary knowledge two to three times faster than what is typical?

Come listen to Sean Morrisey, a 5th grade teacher from right here in WNY, speak about the importance of building students’ vocabulary and how vocabulary plays such a crucial role in reading comprehension. This presentation will show teachers how to build students’ vocabulary within their classrooms with real life examples that you can see right in person. You will be able to see a progression of vocabulary exercises from primary grades through upper elementary, and even in content areas at the secondary level. Sean will focus on how to choose which words to teach, how to explicitly teach academic vocabulary, how to teach morphology, how to create word consciousness in your classroom and throughout your building, how to embed vocabulary in reading fluency passages, and how to get students to use vocabulary within their writing. You will leave with practical ideas that you can use the next day within your classroom.

This presentation is recommended for all educators working in literacy such as classroom teachers, special education and ELL teachers, literacy specialists, principals, and literacy coordinators working k-12.

Sean Morrisey is currently a 5th grade teacher at Pinehurst Elementary School within the Frontier Central School District. Sean was a recent guest on the Melissa and Lori Love Literacy podcast, speaking about the importance of vocabulary instruction within a comprehensive literacy program. Recently, he has presented at the New York State Reading Association Conference along with webinars on reading fluency and vocabulary.

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8 – “Delivering Small-Group Instruction Using the Book ‘How to Differentiate Reading Instruction’”**

**Presentation by Kathleen Lysek, Literacy Interventionist**

**Location TBD**

**In person meeting, 6:00-8:00pm**

Are you looking to move away from guided reading, but don't know how to differentiate your instruction without the leveled readers? Do you need an easy-to-implement program that addresses all 5 components of reading? This presentation is designed to help classroom teachers



use the popular *How to Differentiate Reading Instruction* book by Sharon Walpole and Michael McKenna to deliver small group individualized instruction in their classroom. With just this book and the available on-line resources, teachers can deliver effective, systematic instruction that can help move students to grade-level reading.

Kathleen Lysek is passionate about learning the best ways to help struggling students learn how to read to their fullest potential. She works as a reading interventionist at Tapestry Charter School in Buffalo, NY and spends most days reading, watching, or listening to content on how to help students crack the code.

### **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 –**

### **“Purposes of Assessment in the MTSS Model for Early Literacy”**

**Presentation by Dr. Stephanie Stollar, The Reading Science Academy**

**Virtual – 6:00-8:00pm**

This session will outline the four purposes of assessment in the MTSS model of early literacy: universal screening, diagnostic assessment, progress monitoring and outcome evaluation. Characteristics of assessments that work for each purpose will be presented. Participants will be supported to evaluate their current tools against those characteristics. The assessments will be connected to the problem-solving process used to guide decisions in the MTSS model for systems change and student improvement, with a particular emphasis on changing Tier 1 instruction and supporting students with reading disabilities such as dyslexia.

Dr. Stephanie Stollar is the founder of Stephanie Stollar Consulting LLC and the creator of The [Reading Science Academy](#). Dr. Stollar is a part-time assistant professor in the online reading science program at Mount St. Joseph University, and a founding member of a [national alliance for supporting reading science in higher education](#). As a board member for the Innovations in Education Consortium, she collaboratively plans the annual [MTSS Innovations in Education Conference](#). Dr. Stollar has worked as a school psychologist, an educational consultant, and as Vice President for Professional Learning for Acadience Learning Inc. She has provided professional development, conducted research and published in the areas of assessment, early intervention, and collaborative problem solving. She is passionate about improving educator knowledge and aligning school systems to prevent reading failure. You can follow Stephanie Stollar Consulting and the Reading Science Academy on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and contact her at [stephaniestollar@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniestollar@gmail.com).



## TEAM & CONTACT INFO

TO CONTACT THE LEADERSHIP TEAM, PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL AT THIS ADDRESS:

[WNY.LIT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WNY.LIT@GMAIL.COM)

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Kristin Corser, Literacy Coach Grades 3-5, Former Classroom Teacher, Akron
- Janine Detine, Literacy Coach Grades K-2, Former Classroom Teacher, Akron
- Lori Goventtio, Co-founder WNY Literacy Collaborative / K-12 Reading Specialist / Coach, Iroquois
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- Sean Morrisey, 5th Grade Teacher, Frontier
- Stacey Pellicano, Dyslexia Services of WNY / Coach / Advocate

### Contact for the sponsor, the WNY Literacy Initiative:

Tarja Parssinen

[tarja@wnyeducationalliance.org](mailto:tarja@wnyeducationalliance.org)