

**Reading Association of Ireland**

Editors

Gerry Shiel

Ursula Ní Dhálaigh

# Other Ways of Seeing:

## Diversity in Language and Literacy

**Proceedings of the  
12th European Conference on Reading**



**12<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
CONFERENCE  
ON READING**

**Volume One**



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*Other Ways of Seeing:  
Diversity in Language and  
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*Proceedings of the 12th European Conference on Reading,  
Dublin, July 1-4, 2001*

EDITORS:

*Gerry Shiel*

*Ursula Ní Dhálaigh*

READING ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND/  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE COMMITTEE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

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## CONTENTS

*Foreword by the President of the Reading Association of Ireland . . . viii*

*Foreword by the President of the International Development in  
Europe Committee of the International Reading Association . . . ix*

### SECTION 1: KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

1. *Irish Literature: Excavating the Past . . . . . 3*  
*Declan Kiberd, Ireland*
2. *Early Literacy Stimulation in a Preventative Perspective. . . . . 8*  
*Bente E. Hagtvet, Norway*
3. *Literacy in Developing Countries: Why Not? . . . . . 26*  
*Vincent Greaney, Ireland*

### SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT OF LITERACY

4. *Adolescents' Responses to Fiction: Qualitative Aspects in a  
Quantitative Reading Literacy Survey. . . . . 37*  
*Astrid Roe, Norway*
5. *National Assessments of English Reading in Ireland . . . . . 46*  
*Jude Cosgrove and Patrick Forde, Ireland*
6. *Making Literacy Learning and Teaching Creative: Feedback  
Portfolios . . . . . 57*  
*Svetlana Ushakova, Russia*

### SECTION 3: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

7. *La Bible dans la Littérature pour Enfants en Pologne*. . . . . 65  
GraŸyna Lewandowicz, Poland
8. *Marginalisation and Irish Children's Literature:  
A Personal View*. . . . . 70  
Finian O'Shea, Ireland
9. *Know Your Place: Identity and Place in Children's Novels* . . . . 77  
Mary Thompson, Ireland
10. *The Multigenre Project* . . . . . 89  
Patricia G. Smith, Australia

### SECTION 4: EARLY LITERACY AND FAMILY LITERACY

11. *The Voice of Beginning Reading Instruction:  
Families and Schools in Four Countries* . . . . . 99  
Matti Brugemann, U.S.A.
12. *Partnerships in Early Childhood: Linking Parents,  
Teachers and Academia to Improve Literacy*. . . . . 106  
Catherine O'Callaghan, U.S.A.
13. *Continuity and Discontinuity in Early Literacy Development  
in Slovenia* . . . . . 112  
Ol'ga Zápotoená, Branislav Pupala and L'ubica Hoškova, Slovakia
14. *Issues in Family Literacy Programmes in Inner City  
Communities* . . . . . 119  
Jim Anderson, Suzanne Smith, John Shapiro and  
Fiona Morrison, Canada

- 15. *Family Literacy Programmes: The Whole is More than the Sum of the Parts* . . . . . 125**  
*William T. Fagan, Canada*

**SECTION 5: LIBRARIES AND LITERACY**

- 16. *The Classics of Literature and the Library*. . . . . 133**  
*Jadwiga Kolodziejska, Poland*

- 17. *Demonstration in Reading Instruction in Hungary: A Historical Analysis* . . . . . 142**  
*Anna Adamik-Jászó, Hungary*

**SECTION 6: LITERACY AND DEMOCRACY**

- 18. *Censorship and Reading in the New Poland*. . . . . 155**  
*Janusz Dunin, Poland*

- 19. *Literacies, Contexts and Practices*. . . . . 162**  
*Maria de Lourdes Dionísio, Portugal*

- 20. *Levels of Literacy*. . . . . 172**  
*Keith Nettle, England*

- 21. *Contemporary Discourse on Literacy: Reading in the Media* . . . 178**  
*Rui Vieira de Castro, Portugal*

**SECTION 7: READING COMPREHENSION**

- 22. *Strategic Habits for Struggling Middle Grades Readers* . . . . . 189**  
*Leslie W. Crawford, Margaret M. Philbin*  
*and Charles E. Martin, U.S.A*

- 23. *Integrating Children’s Interests and Literature to Enhance Reading Comprehension* . . . . . 199**  
*Gail Goss, U.S.A.*

24. *Quelle Durée Hebdomadaire d'Entraînement Est Nécessaire à Une Amélioration de la Lecture chez des Collégiens?* . . . . . 206  
Denis Foucambert, France
25. *Children's Metacognition as a Predictor of Reading Comprehension* . . . . . 216  
Svjetlana Kolic-Vehovec and Igor Bajšanski, Croatia
26. *Middle-Grade Readers' Ability to Interpret Pragmatic Meaning.* . . . . . 223  
Linda M. Phillips and Stephen P. Norris, Canada
27. *Building Content-Area Reading Comprehension and Literacy through an Integrative Curriculum Strategy Using Reading, Writing and Concept Mapping Strategies* . . . . . 231  
Nancy R. Romance, Michael R. Vitale, Patricia Widergren, and Janette Hameister, U.S.A.
28. *Flexible Grouping: Grouping Students for Direct and Indirect Reading Instruction.* . . . . . 236  
Jeri K. Gustafson and Mary W. Strong, U.S.A.

**SECTION 8: SECONDARY READING**

29. *Reading in Secondary Schools: A Case for Situated Reading.* . . 245  
Edward H. Behrman, U.S.A
30. *Reading Literature in Slovenian Vocational Schools* . . . . . 254  
Boûa Krakar Vogel, Slovenia
31. *Vocabulary Instruction for Struggling Adolescent Readers* . . . 262  
Michele L. Simpson, Michelle Francis Anderson, Carol Strickland Hall, and Tom A. Simpson, U.S.A.

32.	<i>Reading Literature through Textbooks: Adolescents’ Knowledge and Literacy Practices</i>	269
	<i>Angelina Ferreira Rodrigues, Portugal</i>	
33.	<i>Reading Motivation in the First Year of Secondary School</i>	277
	<i>Tanja Jalenko, Slovenia</i>	
34.	<i>PONDARRS: An Integrated Procedure for Content-Area Reading</i>	282
	<i>Nancy Marshall, U.S.A</i>	
35.	<i>From Repetition to Reader Response: Using Children’s Trade Books to Teach Subject Matter</i>	287
	<i>Barbara Kane Schneider and Mary W. Spor, U.S.A.</i>	

## **Foreword by the President of the Reading Association of Ireland**

It gives me great pleasure to write a brief introduction to this, the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, hosted by the Reading Association of Ireland at Dublin City University in July of 2001.

The conference was a wonderful event, bringing together as it did, educators and reading specialists from the far-flung corners of the globe. It was also a truly international event. We celebrated our diversity from our common interest in literacy and in the written and spoken word. It was a very gentle and gracious event, marked with good humour and tolerance for our many differences. And all of this was made possible by the hard work of a truly remarkable group of people on the organising committee! We owe each of them a debt of gratitude, especially those who may not have found themselves in the limelight during the week, but who quietly went about the work of making sure that each and every delegate was looked after, and made welcome. And on your behalves, I would like to acknowledge the work of the organising committee and to thank them.

This book is an ‘éacht oibre’ – a great work. It brings together a selection of papers on a range of topics on the teaching of reading. Each paper adds to our collective understanding of the efforts we are engaged in to bring reading education into focus at the centre of the wider education debate. We thank each one of you who submitted papers and hope that you find as much to think about in the other papers here as their authors will in yours!

Le Gach Dea Ghuí,

FINIAN O’SHEA  
(President, RAI, 1999-2002)  
Learning Support Department  
Church of Ireland College of Education  
Dublin  
June 2003

**Foreword by the President of the International Development in Europe  
Committee of the International Reading Association (IDEC)**

It was a great pleasure and honour to preside at the 12<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading in Dublin, in Ireland, my mother's native land. As Declan Kiberd powerfully argued in his opening keynote address, there is every reason to resist being forced into false dichotomies – and I am proud to be both English by birth and (half) Irish by ancestry. It gave me great pleasure to hear so many excellent presentations and see the interest and friendship that grew from this truly international occasion, for which we thank the host organisation, the Reading Association of Ireland (RAI), most warmly.

These volumes of Proceedings from the conference contain almost 70 papers from 19 countries. Forty-two papers come from Europe and 28 from elsewhere. Within those from Europe, the host country features strongly (15), and 14 other countries are represented.

Having given some idea of the quantity, let me give you some feeling for the quality. In the three keynote addresses, Declan Kiberd ranges over Irish literature in Irish and English and the complexities and ambiguities of identity involved; Bente Hagtvet reports on research tackling the pressing problem of poor reading through prevention rather than remediation; and Vincent Greaney, former President of RAI and now working for the World Bank in Washington, DC, writes movingly of the problems of literacy in developing countries.

In addition, the Contents pages show that the papers cover the full gamut of literacy processes and topics (except that information and communications technology is curiously absent), and that every topic is shared across countries (except that all the papers on teacher development come from the United States) – both observations suggest powerful areas for future research in Europe. And in all the research and development that we do, learners must be central – as indeed they are in all the papers here. I trust that these volumes will give readers as much pleasure and food for thought as the conference gave the participants.

GREG BROOKS  
(President, IDEC, 1998-2002)  
University of Sheffield School of Education  
England  
June 2003

### *Reviewers*

The Editors wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following in reviewing papers:

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