



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2026

Building Visual Literacy Through Picture Books

Picture books are powerful tools for helping students think critically, make inferences, and construct meaning beyond the written word. In this interactive 2-hour workshop, educators will explore ways to teach visual literacy, helping students “read” illustrations as thoughtfully as they read text.

Participants will discover ways to guide students in noticing visual details, interpreting artistic choices, and using illustrations to deepen comprehension and spark discussion. In today’s image-rich world, visual literacy is an essential skill for developing thoughtful, engaged readers. Join us as we explore the stories that pictures tell and discover how picture books can enrich literacy learning.

Audience: For Pre-K–5 teachers and librarians, preservice teachers, and high school students in an ECE track.

Time commitment: 2 hours.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Courtney Waring is IRW’s Executive Director. With more than 25 years in education and the arts, Courtney is devoted to promoting literacy, access, and meaningful learning opportunities for all children. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Art History, along with a graduate-level certification in elementary education. Before joining IRW, she held increasingly senior roles in the education departments of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, the Delaware Art Museum, The Barnes Foundation, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.