

# Day One

**Keynote • 8:30 - 9:05 am**

## **“Seeing Our Struggling Readers Through New Eyes” – Dr. Mary Howard**

How we view the term “struggling reader” can have a tremendous impact on our students as learners. Our perceptions have the potential to transform our practices and our students’ lives in both positive and negative ways. Join Mary for an enlightening session as we re-envision our responsibility to our struggling students and position ourselves to best help them realize their assets, gifts and potential as learners.

## **MORNING SESSIONS • 9:15 - 11:50 am**

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions  
*One mid-morning break*

**Full Morning Session • 9:15 – 11:50 am**

### **A-1: Maximize Guided Reading to Accelerate Progress for Struggling Readers**

– *Dr. Mary Howard*

Small group guided reading instruction is particularly important for meeting the varied reading needs of our struggling readers. Identify the key factors that have the power to elevate small group experiences and ensure maximum student gain. Learn proven ways to dramatically enhance your efforts and accelerate your students’ progress.

**70-Minute Sessions • 9:15 – 10:25 am**

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-2 or A-3**

##### **A-2: Strengthen Your Struggling Readers’ Comprehension Skills – *Mary Peterson***

Receive the most effective strategies to greatly increase your struggling readers’ comprehension skills. Explore engaging literature and informational books with accompanying standards-based lessons and activities, proven to increase comprehension for struggling readers. Receive a wealth of strategies perfect for grades K-6 and with any text, designed to help your students become motivated, proficient and independent readers!

##### **A-3: Essential Conditions for Learning for Struggling Readers – *Sharon Zinke***

Discover the optimal conditions that make learning easy and natural. Learn practical ways to strengthen struggling readers’ engagement, confidence and ownership of the learning process. Apply these learning conditions and watch as students buy in and take greater responsibility for their own learning, making your teaching much more rewarding and impactful, especially for your struggling readers.

**70-Minute Sessions • 10:40 – 11:50 am**

#### **CHOOSE ONE: A-4 or A-5**

##### **A-4: Highly Effective and Engaging Strategies for Increasing Reading Fluency – *Mary Peterson***

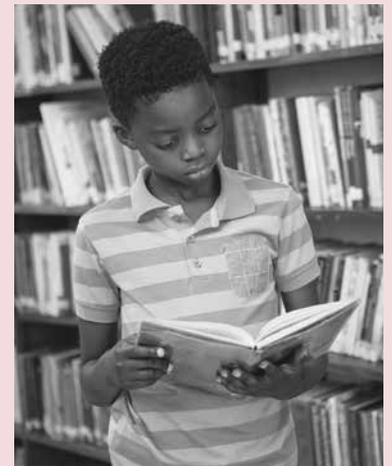
Fluency is one of the critical building blocks of reading, as fluent reading is directly related to comprehension. Acquire a wealth of highly effective strategies to help your struggling students read with speed, accuracy and appropriate expression. Dramatically increase your students’ reading fluency and confidence with these highly motivating and engaging activities.

##### **A-5: Reading Intervention: Let’s Keep it Simple! – *Sharon Zinke***

Reading intervention does not have to be complicated! It can be fun and easy and need not involve plowing through thick teachers’ guides to find what works for your struggling readers. Let’s explore the key elements you can employ to help your struggling readers find fast success. Gain effective and practical reading intervention strategies for helping your struggling readers catch up quickly.



*“This conference was bursting with great ideas, practical examples and energetic presenters. I highly recommend it!”*



*“This was a 5-star conference. I’m feeling renewed and leaving with so many practical ideas to help my struggling readers.”*

#### **Team Discount**

##### **ONE DAY**

One Person: \$269

##### **BOTH DAYS**

One person: \$449

**Team of 3+: \$429 per person  
when enrolled at the same time**

**Lunch break on your own • 11:50 am – 1:05 pm (A great time to network with colleagues!)**

... *“Outstanding” “Practical” “Fun” “Engaging” “Wonderful”* ...



## Online Learning

BER offers educators a wide range of online courses that are affordable, fun, fast, and convenient. BER is now offering On Demand Video-Based courses. You may earn optional graduate-level credits for most courses. See the catalog of available courses at [www.ber.org/onlinelearning](http://www.ber.org/onlinelearning)



## Who is BER?

The Bureau of Education & Research is North America's leading presenter of training for professional educators. Our goal is to provide high-quality PD programs, based on sound research, with an emphasis on practical strategies and techniques that can be immediately implemented.

# Day One

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 1:05 - 3:35 pm

Choose **ONE** Full Afternoon Session OR **TWO** 70-Minute Sessions  
*One mid-afternoon break*

### Full Afternoon Session • 1:05 – 3:35 pm

#### **B-1: Rime Magic: A Breakthrough in Word Recognition!** – Sharon Zinke

Bring fast success to struggling readers who have fallen behind in word recognition with a faster, simpler and more effective approach to phonics instruction. Based on onset/rime research, Rime Magic is easy to implement, engaging, and can be slipped in for five minutes next to any language arts curriculum. See videos of Rime Magic in action, have a chance to practice, and watch as your struggling readers find immediate success and newfound confidence.

#### First 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:05 – 2:15 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-2 or B-3**

#### **B-2: High Impact Activities: Build a Rich Store of Long-Term Word Knowledge** – Dr. Mary Howard

Research shows a direct correlation between the literacy success of struggling readers and the quantity of known words. Discover powerful ways to help students develop a large bank of word knowledge without turning word study into an isolated goal devoid of context. Increase students' exposure to words and opportunities throughout the learning day for word study.

#### **B-3: Project Based Learning for Struggling Readers** – Mary Peterson

Project based learning helps struggling readers make real-life connections while building reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Learn how to plan and implement a variety of high interest PBL activities to provide challenge and success specifically for struggling readers. Increase struggling readers' literacy skills, motivation, collaboration and enjoyment while learning!

#### Second 70-Minute Afternoon Sessions 2:25 – 3:35 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: B-4 or B-5**

#### **B-4: Twitter 101: Widen Your Instructional Reach Through Social Media** – Dr. Mary Howard

Create a broad professional network as you learn ways to get started on Twitter, navigate the vast Twitter highway, engage in Twitter chats and reach out to others with common goals and even favorite authors. Create a supportive learning network that is open for business all hours of the day. Discover how to effectively use this remarkable tool to enhance your professional learning and to better support your struggling learners.

#### **B-5: Innovative Ways to Improve Writing Skills for Struggling Readers** – Mary Peterson

Learn highly practical, classroom-proven writing strategies to help your struggling increase their reading skills through writing. Leave with specific ways to build struggling readers' writing success. Receive a wealth of engaging lessons and ideas for using narrative, opinion and informational mentor texts to increase your students' reading and writing skills.

### Can't Attend? Online Professional Development Option:

#### Related Online Courses

Two related On Demand Video-Based Online Learning Courses, *RTI: Strengthen Your Tier One Reading Instruction and Intervention*, for Grades K-6, and *RTI: Strengthening Your Tier 2 Interventions with Struggling Readers*, for Grades K-6 are available for immediate registration.

To enroll, visit [www.ber.org/onlinelearning](http://www.ber.org/onlinelearning)

# Day Two

## MORNING SESSIONS • 8:30 – 11:15 am

Choose **ONE** Full Morning Session OR **TWO** 75-Minute Sessions  
*One mid-morning break*

Full Morning Session • 8:30 – 11:15 am

### **C-1: Build Struggling Readers' Vocabulary and Word Skills: Make and Take Session** – *Mary Peterson*

Strengthen phonics, sight words, grammar and vocabulary skills with these engaging activities, games and projects! You will leave with a wealth of effective ideas and exciting ways to enhance word study lessons to greatly strengthen reading competence and confidence. Be prepared to create some innovative and motivating word study projects.

First 75-Minute Morning Sessions  
8:30 – 9:45 am

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-2 or C-3**

### **C-2: Student Talk: Elevate Quality Collaboration for Struggling Learners** – *Dr. Mary Howard*

Student talk is the great learning equalizer because it offers a powerful way for struggling students to rehearse and solidify their thinking in the company of others. Discover specific ways to support your struggling learners, harnessing the power of talk as an instructional collaboration tool. This goal of this session is to illuminate the specific and explicit instruction struggling readers need for using talk effectively as a learning tool.

### **C-3: Comprehension: From Word-Calling to Metacognition** – *Sharon Zinke*

Students who struggle to comprehend text fall further behind as the texts become more sophisticated each year. We'll focus on ways to bring alive the key strategies that our struggling readers need to develop to become proficient readers who construct meaning when they read. Gain powerful strategies to help your students read from the comprehension part of their brain rather than just focusing on word accuracy.

Second 75-Minute Morning Sessions  
10:00 – 11:15 am

#### **CHOOSE ONE: C-4 or C-5**

### **C-4: Schoolwide Assessment Walls that Support Struggling Readers** – *Dr. Mary Howard*

Explore not just the WHAT, but the WHY and HOW we can use assessment walls to powerfully support our struggling readers. Mary will share personal experiences creating assessment walls in numerous schools and offer step-by-step guidelines, cautions and recommendations to maximize the direction and impact of our instructional efforts.

### **C-5: Fluency for Struggling Readers** – *Sharon Zinke*

Struggling readers who have fallen behind in word recognition need intervention that includes repeated reading with high-interest material that is normally out of reach. Discover the books and materials that work best for students at each reading level. Find out what causes improved fluency and learn an effective method for fluency instruction that makes a marked difference for students who struggle with word identification.

## Comprehensive Resource Handbook

You will receive an extensive resource handbook, specifically designed for this conference. Included in the handbook are resource materials for ALL conference sessions, even those you don't attend. These materials include:

- Numerous reading strategies you can use right away to better support the needs of your struggling readers
- Easy-to-implement adaptations to immediately enrich your teaching and closing the achievement gap
- Step-by-step descriptions of dozens of powerful strategies to use successfully with your struggling students
- Management and organizational tips to strengthen your program for struggling readers



*"This is the 4th BER conference I've attended and I'm never disappointed. I always leave energized and with tons of strategies and ideas I can use right away with my students."*

11:15 am – 12:30 pm • Lunch Break (on your own)

## On-Site Training

Conferences like this one along with many other topics can be brought to your school or district. Please view all of our On-Site PD options at [www.ber.org/onsite](http://www.ber.org/onsite) or call 877-857-8964 to speak with an On-Site PD Consultant.



... "Terrific" "Powerful" "Dynamic" "Effective" "Worthwhile" ...

## Conference Locations & Hotel Accommodations



### Minneapolis

Many top attractions include Target Field, Target Center and the theatres of Hennepin Avenue.

#### Conference Location and Overnight Accommodations:

Crowne Plaza AiRE Hotel & Suites – Airport • (952) 854-9000

Mention you are attending this BER conference prior to February 17, 2019 to receive the special rate of \$129 (Single/Double), rates subject to availability.

Reference Code:  
Minneapolis\_Spring 2019.



### St. Louis

Wander through the St. Louis Art Museum, or visit the famous Gateway Arch. The city offers a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities.

#### Conference Location and Overnight Accommodations:

Clayton Plaza Hotel – Clayton (314) 726-5400

Mention you are attending this BER conference prior to February 18, 2019 to receive the special rate of \$119 (Single/Double), rates subject to availability.

Reference Code: SUQ

# Day Two

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS • 12:30 - 3:10 pm

Choose **TWO** 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions • *One mid-afternoon break*

### First 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 12:30 -1:45 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: D-1, D-2 or D-3**

##### **D-1: An RTI Model for Struggling Readers That Works!**

– *Dr. Mary Howard*

Discover common roadblocks and specific ways to break them down so that we can create an RTI design that will maximize our ability to support our struggling learners. Identify students' unique learning needs and carefully craft instructional opportunities that will meet those unique needs. Learn what the most successful schools are doing and how they are creating a flexible design for instructional support.

##### **D-2: Guided Reading Strategies and Literacy Center Ideas for Struggling Readers (Grades 3-6) – *Mary Peterson***

Receive classroom-proven strategies to organize, manage and differentiate flexible guided reading groups to better meet the needs of your struggling readers in grades 3-6. Learn how to plan just-right, small group reading lessons. Gain a wealth of practical and effective ideas for creating and managing timesaving and motivating literacy learning centers that reinforce the skills and concepts your struggling readers need to practice most.

##### **D-3: Spelling for Struggling Readers in a Nutshell – *Sharon Zinke***

Though spelling proficiency grows effortlessly for some students with each book they read, struggling readers often need more. Experience tried and true methods for building spelling success for struggling readers with long-vowel, multi-syllabic, and high-frequency words. Gain highly engaging and effective strategies for building struggling readers' proficiency with spelling while building proficiency with sentence structure.

### Second 75-Minute Afternoon Sessions 1:55 – 3:10 pm

#### **CHOOSE ONE: D-4, D-5 or D-6**

##### **D-4: Using Visual References to Reinforce, Enrich and Extend Teaching**

– *Dr. Mary Howard*

There is dramatic research support for using visuals to leave an instructional stepping stone for revisiting learning and thinking. Visual references are particularly powerful for struggling readers as they offer a concrete reference that can strengthen and deepen learning over time. Explore visual design features and learn practical ways to use these rich tools to maximize instructional impact for your struggling readers.

##### **D-5: Guided Reading Strategies and Literacy Center Ideas for Struggling Readers (Grades K-2) – *Mary Peterson***

Receive classroom-proven strategies to organize, manage and differentiate flexible guided reading groups to better meet the needs of your struggling readers in grades K-2. Learn how to plan just-right, small group reading lessons. Gain a wealth of practical and effective ideas for creating and managing timesaving and motivating literacy learning centers that reinforce the skills and concepts your struggling readers need to practice most.

##### **D-6: Understanding the Reading Process to Help Our Struggling Readers**

– *Sharon Zinke*

Successfully teaching struggling readers to read proficiently depends on our understanding of the reading process and how proficient readers read. Struggling readers often have an unbalanced approach to reading, over-relying on one cueing system to the detriment of another. Come and have fun diving into the essence of the reading process and watch what happens to your reading instruction – especially for your struggling readers!