

UVU's For the Love of Reading 2026

Monday Sept 28, 2026. Provo Marriott Hotel

7:30am	Registration			
8:00-9:00am	Grand Ballroom: Breakfast, Welcome			
9:00-10:00am	Keynote 1: Rajani LaRocca			
10:05-10:30am	Book Signing Table 1 Rajani LaRocca		Book Signing Table 2 Janet Sumner Johnson	
10:30-11:15am	Grand Ballroom: Best Books presented by Gene Nelson, Jessica Smith, and Jace Brown			
Breakouts 1	Ballroom	Juniper	Cedar	Birch
11:30-12:15pm	Byron Graves (KS) The Reluctant Reader	Extra, Extra: Using Picture Books to Tell the Stories That Changed Us Presenter: Sally Baird (E, L)	Meeting Students Where They Are: Engagement That Builds Readers Presenter: Michael Bowden (S)	Building Relationships Through S.E.L. Presenter: Teresa Edwards (L)
12:15- 12:45pm	Grand Ballroom: Lunch, Awards			
12:45-1:45pm	Keynote 2: Janet Sumner Johnson			
1:50-2:15pm	Book Signing Table 1 Janet Sumner Johnson		Book Signing Table 2 Byron Graves	
Breakouts 2	Ballroom	Juniper	Cedar	Birch
2:15-3:00pm	Rajani LaRocca (KS) Building Empathy Through Picture Books	Beyond Reading Logs: Practice That Builds Lifelong Readers at Home Presenter: Cami Reschke (E)	AI-Resistant and AI-Enhanced: Creating Assignments in an AI Age Presenter: Tom Smith (E, S)	Read a Difference (E, L)
3:15-3:20pm	Grand Ballroom: Announcements			
3:20-4:20pm	Keynote 3: Jennifer A. Nielsen			
4:25-4:50pm	Book Signing Table 1 Jennifer A. Nielsen		Book Signing Table 2 Rajani LaRocca	

*** 6:00-8:00pm— Special Ticketed Event: Author Dinner**

Breakout Audience Key: E-Elementary/ S-Secondary/ L-Librarian/ KS-Keynote Speaker

Tuesday Sept 29, 2026

7:30am	Registration			
8:00-8:30am	Grand Ballroom: Breakfast, Welcome Day 2			
8:30-9:30am	Keynote 4: Byron Graves			
9:35-10:00am	Book Signing <i>Table 1</i> Byron Graves		Book Signing <i>Table 2</i> Penny Kittle	
Breakouts 3	Ballroom	Juniper	Cedar	Birch
10:00-10:45pm	For the Love of Books Roundtable	<i>The Power of Sentence Writing: Small Structures, Big Comprehension</i> Presenter: Kara DeCoursey (E)	<i>The Book Was Better (But Was It Really?)</i> Presenters: Gretchen Zaitzeff & Lehua Parker (S, L)	Janet Sumner Johnson <i>I Have an Idea: Helping Students Find Their Stories</i> (KS, E, S))
Breakouts 4	Ballroom	Juniper	Cedar	Birch
11:00-11:45pm	Penny Kittle (KS) Micro Mentor Texts: Using Short Passages From Great Books to Teach Writer's Craft	<i>Classroom Practices That Matter: Using Poetry in Four Voices</i> Presenter: Lisa Calvert (E)	<i>Writing Every Day, The Easy Way: Simple, High-Impact Strategies for Every Content Area</i> Presenter: Jaime Sadleir-Holley (E, S)	<i>Step Into the Story: Harnessing Process Drama to Deepen Read-Aloud Comprehension</i> Presenter: Laura Reina (E, L)
Breakouts 5	Ballroom	Juniper	Cedar	Birch
12:00-12:45pm	Jennifer A. Nielsen (KS) How to Identify Writers In Your Classroom and What to Do About It	<i>Motivating Struggling Readers and Students with Dyslexia: Teach the Brain, Protect the Heart</i> Presenter: Sherry Evans (E, S, L)	<i>Teachers as Advocates for NEW Books in the ELA Classroom</i> Presenters: Megan Van Deventer, Mandy Luszeck & Liz Thackeray Nelson (S, L)	<i>The Power of a Sentence: Growing Strong Writers and Thoughtful Readers Through SEL Texts</i> Presenters: Cami Player & Lorena Jimenez (E)
12:45-1:15pm	Grand Ballroom: Lunch			
1:15-2:15pm	Keynote 5: Penny Kittle			
2:15-2:30pm	Closing Ceremonies			
2:35-3:00pm	Book Signing <i>Table 1</i> Penny Kittle		Book Signing <i>Table 2</i> Jennifer A. Nielsen	