

Acclaimed educator Nancy Larrick dies at age 93

Noted educator, author, and IRA Past President Nancy Larrick died on November 14 in Winchester, Virginia, at the age of 93. A nationally known expert on children's literature, she wrote the bestselling book *A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading*.

A leader in the International Council for the Improvement of Reading Instruction, one of the two organizations that merged to form the International Reading Association, Larrick helped found IRA in 1956 and served as the organization's second president. She also served as editor of IRA's journal *The Reading Teacher* from 1950 to 1954. She received IRA's prestigious William S. Gray Citation of Merit in 1977.

Larrick earned an A.B. degree at Goucher College, an M.A. at Columbia, and an Ed.D. at New York University. She began her career as a classroom teacher and later served as a professor or visiting professor at several universities, including Indiana University, New York University, and Lehigh University. She also was a longtime trustee at Shenandoah University.

In the field of children's literature, Larrick served as a children's book editor for Random House and as an editorial advisor for the Arrow Book Club. In addition to *A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading*, she wrote several other books aimed at parents and teachers. She also edited 13 anthologies of poetry for children.

In addition to her many accomplishments as an author, anthologist, educator, children's literature specialist, and IRA president, Larrick also is remembered for her article "The All-White World of Children's Books," which appeared in the *Saturday Review* in 1965. This article helped launch the multicultural children's literature movement in the United States.

Larrick received many honors and awards for her work, including honorary degrees from Goucher College, Lehigh University, and Shenandoah University. She was inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame in 1976.

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