Sandra K. Athans
Syracuse, New York 13037
Email: sandraathans@gmail.com
https://SandraAthans.com

Education

Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY/Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY
1. Master of Science in Education II – Literacy Education (Birth-grade 6), August 2013
2. Master of Arts in Teaching, January 2000

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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Bachelor of Arts, 1980, Concentration: English
Achievements: GPA 3.4; Graduated with Class Honors; Scholarship awarded to attend Cranbrook Writers' Conference at Kingswood Academy; Honorable recognition for Writing submission; Launched student magazine "The Contemporary Fiction Review"

Certification

Literacy (Birth – Grade 6)
State of New York, February 2014

Secondary Education: English 7 – 12
State of New York, February 2004

Elementary Education (PreK - 6)
State of New York, January 2000

National Board Certification: Literacy/Reading-Language Arts
November 2009, 2020 (Renewal)

Educational Employment

Educational Content, Writer & Reviewer, Corwin Press, CA, 5/24 – present.
*Completed thorough research into assigned topics.
*Provided expert review of manuscripts on current educational topics.
*Used exceptional writing, editing, and proofreading skills to improve the content of forthcoming publications.

AIS Literacy Specialist &TOSA, Chittenango Central School District, NY, 9/14 – present.
*Devised and facilitated district-wide writing approach, grades K – 12.
*Served as Literacy Leader, Standards Specialist, and Coach to all instructional classroom, AIS, Resource, and Library staff
*Planned and delivered AIS writing instruction, grades 1 - 12

Fourth-Grade Teacher, Bolivar Road Elementary School, Chittenango, NY, 9/00 – 6/14.
*Increased student "passing" performance from 66% to 98% on New York State ELA Tests.
*Planned and delivered instruction in all content areas.
*Facilitated district-wide planning session to update and align district's Writing Curriculum.
*Presented Guided Reading seminar for 3 – 5 grade teachers.

Adjunct Professor, Advanced Strategies for Teaching Language Arts Instruction in the Elementary Classroom, LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY, 1/12 – 1/14.
*Planned and delivered instruction in advanced strategies for reading, writing, listening, writing & viewing.
*Provided instruction in the new Common Core State Standards and the Common Core Learning Standards.
*Arranged guest speakers including distance presentation via Skype, bringing literary leaders to the classroom.

Adjunct Professor, Academic Writing, Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY, 9/03 – 9/04.
*Planned and delivered instruction in expository, narrative, argumentative, and descriptive writing.
*Provided instruction in library research and MLA Documentation.

Publishing Experience

The Kraus Organization Ltd., White Plains, NY, 1982 – 1993.
*Spent over ten years working within the publishing division of this privately held company and received numerous promotions as follows: **(1989 – 1993) – Director, Quality Resources**; **(1986 – 1988) – Marketing Director, Kraus International Publications**; **(1982 – 1985) – Marketing Manager, Kraus International**

The American Management Association, New York, NY, 1980 – 1982

*Began employment at this leading business management company through an internship program within their publishing division, AMACOM, and was subsequently offered a full-time position as **Editorial Coordinator** and one year later, was promoted to **Marketing Coordinator**.

Professional Affiliations

Regional Advisor, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators **(SCBWI),** West Central Upstate NY, Board Member, Central New York Council for the Social Studies **(CNYCSS),** member of the National Council for the Social Studies **(NCSS),** Co-chair, Teacher as Researcher Committee, International Reading Association (IRA), Member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development **(ASCD),** the International Reading Association **(IRA),** Representative for the Central New York Reading Council **(CNYRC)**, and member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators **(SCBWI)**, Former Board Member of the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum **(CLCBM).**

Grants Awarded:

April 2014 – Teacher as Researcher Grant "Redefining Balanced Literacy in Today's Common Core Classroom" – International Reading Association (IRA)

Winter 2013/14 - Professional Learning Community Grant: "Extreme Make-Over: Updating and Aligning Rubrics and Assessments to the Common Core – Eastern Upstate Network of Teaching Centers.

Fall 2013 – Professional Learning Community Grant: "Fourth Grade Think Tank" – Eastern Upstate Network of Teaching Centers.

April 2009 – Teacher as Researcher Grant "In the Absence of Background Knowledge" – International Reading Association (IRA)

The following grants were awarded by the CNY Teaching Center:

April 2009 – Technology and Tradition: Balancing Literacy Instruction; Guided Reading Across the Curriculum (Professional Development Grant); Masterful, Marvelous, and Motivating – Literacy Bins

April 2008 – Technology: The New "Best Practice"; The Pursuit of Happiness – More Books!

April 2007 – Literacy Bins: Best Practices and Strategic Support*; Hooking the Highly Unmotivated

April 2006 – Motivation Matters; Leveled and Linked Literature*

April 2005 – Guided-Reading Assessment Strategies; On-Demand Writing*

April 2004 – Guided Reading at the Intermediate Level; Local History: A Backyard Curriculum; Science Journals & Writing; Pet Poetry*

*Student/teacher curriculum materials created for, and workshops held in conjunction with Grant Award.

Professional Recognition

New York State Council for the Social Studies Outstanding Elementary Social Studies Educator Award, 2014

Central New York Council for the Social Studies Outstanding Elementary Social Studies Educator Award, 2013

Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2005/06 – present; Who's Who Among Executive and Professional Women in Teaching and Education: Honors Edition, 2007/08 - present

Published Materials

Professional Book Publications:

1. **Sell a Children's Book NOW! Quick Success in the Educational Market**, Fall 2023
2. **Quick & Easy Strategies for Close Reading and Writing, Grades 3 - 6** Scholastic Press, March 2020
3. **Close Reading Lesson for the Whole Class**: *Easy Strategies for Choosing Complex Texts, Creating Text-Dependent Questions, and Teaching Close Reading Skills So Every Student Can Succeed*, Scholastic Press, Fall 2014
4. **Fun-tastic Activities for Differentiation Comprehension Instruction, Grades 2 – 6** (International Reading Association, Delaware, 150 pages, January 2010).
5. **Motivating Every Student in Literacy (Including the Highly Unmotivated!), Grades 3 – 6. (**Eye on Education, New York, 200 pages, August 2009).
6. **Quality Comprehension**: A Strategic Model of Reading Instruction Using Read-Along Guides, Grades 3 – 6 (International Reading Association, Delaware, 350 pages, 2008).
7. **The Literacy Leaders Handbook: Best Practices for Developing Professional Literacy Communities.** Edited by Cynthia A. Lassonde and Kristine Tucker. Pearson Education, Boston, 2012. Critical Voices feature, Chapter 7: *Portraying a Paradigm for Change*.

8. **Strategic Writing Mini-Lessons for All Students, Grades 4 – 8.** Edited by Janet C. Richards, Cynthia A. Lassonde. Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA, November 2012. Chapter 18: *A Sound-Savvy Approach to Writing: The Read Aloud.*

Children's Publications:

1. ***Tales From the Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest with Pete Athans,*** Millbrook Press, A Division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. September 2012. A photo-informational children's book highlighting adventures from Pete's seven summits of Mt. Everest.
2. ***Secrets of the Sky Caves: Danger and Discovery on Nepal's Mustang Cliffs,*** Millbrook Press, A Division of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. January 2014. A photo-information children's book that documents recent scientific expeditions in remote caves in Mustang, Nepal.
3. ***Benchmark Education***
   Simon Says and The Verb Game, Grades 3 – 4; Word Plays Reader's Theater Series
   Bully on the Coal Strike of 1902, Grades 6 – 8, Famous Person Reader's Theater Series
4. ***Rourke Publishing***
   My Space and Your Space; A Story About Personal Boundaries (Ready Reader Series)
   Forever Rhen; A Story About Divorce (Ready Reader Series)
   So You Was Be A Dancer (Series)

Educational Teacher Materials, Lesson Plans, & Templates:

1. ***Rosen Publishing (larger curriculum projects)***
   - *The Common Core Readiness Guide to Reading Series (Grades 4 - 6): Tips & Tricks for…*
   - *Rosen Interactive eBooks - Common Core Lesson Plans (60+ Close Read Lesson Plans)*
   - Rosen *LitLinks Series* Prototype & Design (2014) - Paired fiction/nonfiction text; student materials & teacher guide for instruction. Comprehension questions & extended writing activities.
   - Rosen Classroom *Leveled Bookroom* (2018) - Created 35-page Teacher Implementation Guide that included lesson plans, comprehension question stems, informal monitoring assessments.
   - Rosen *New York Times Instructional Guides (2019)* - Created four 16-page instruction guides for NYT curated collections of NYT articles that included lesson plans for analytical reading, writing, and vocabulary building activities.

2. ***Freelance Educational Writer 2017 – Present***
   - Created teacher/student facing standards-based instructional products (hardcopy & multi-media) for top Educational Publishers and Curriculum Content Houses – including Scholastic, Pearson, Corwin, Westchester Educational Services, Six Red Marbles, and others. Products include fiction and nonfiction Early-Reader Leveled books (PreK – G4), Hi/Los (ELLs G 2 – 6), Teacher Guides (G2 – 8), and more.

3. ***Cobblestone Publishing*** (Online Teacher Guides for AppleSeeds - 4 years) - 2010 - 2014

4. School District Consultation ***Read-Along Guides & Close Reading Guides*** - 2010 - 2020

5. ***Daily Lesson Plans*** - Chittenango Central Schools: Writing and Reading/Writing - 2018 - 2020