

From the President.....

Kathy Langham



Spring 2016

Dear CRA Members,

Education is an ever-evolving profession. We are always adapting to new research and political influences. Currently educators are adapting to the Common Core State Standards, the English Language Development *Framework*, 21st Century Skills and ways to help our students be College and Career Ready.

As you look at the changes education has gone through over the last 150 years, and imagine what may lay ahead, there is one constant. Children need well-written, engaging and relevant books to read. CRA is proud that two of our committees, **The California Young Reader Metal** and **The Eureka Award**, help families and educators find great literature and nonfiction books. Be sure to check out these two invaluable resources.

Books recommended for **CYRM** must have strong appeal for the age group for which the recommendation is made. The book must be a work of fiction that has been published within the previous four years, and it must still be in print. Finally, a living author must have written the book. Students, teachers, librarians or anyone that works closely with children can recommend books. On the CYRM website, www.californiayoungreadermedal.org, you will find lists of books nominated, past winners and many resources.

The Eureka Award honors and promotes the use of outstanding children's nonfiction books and assists teachers, librarians, and parents in identifying exceptional nonfiction books for their students and children. Books must be nonfiction, but can be of any genre including poetry, folktale, fairy tale, informational, biography, memoir, cookbooks, self-help or reference. Also, books must be published within the last three years. Winner lists are available on the CRA website, www.californiareads.org, under the Awards tab on the menu bar.

We may sometimes feel frustrated trying to keep up with the constant changes, but we can take comfort in knowing that excellent children's literature will always be a vital part of a high quality education. I wish you all many opportunities to read excellent books with children.

Warm Regards,

Kathy Langham