This July promises another beautiful summer of learning at the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy (IREL), back for its third summer in Washington DC! Our signature sessions will once again be held at the historic Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library.

Join co-directors Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul and Tricia Ebarvia along with educators from across the country as we gather together around the shared promise of a just and equitable literacy education for all kids.

There will be two sessions offered: Writing Toward Freedom (July 7-9) and Reading Toward Freedom (July 11-13). Participants are welcome to attend one or both sessions. Additional details about each session on the next page.

**WHAT**
A unique and powerful professional development experience focusing on the intersection of literacy instruction and racial equity.

**WHO**
All PK-12 literacy educators, administrators, librarians/media specialists, coaches, and consultants. Teams encouraged!

**WHEN**
Session 1: Writing Towards Freedom (July 7 - 9, 2024)
Session 2: Reading Towards Freedom (July 11 - 13, 2024)

**WHERE**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, Washington DC

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**What makes IREL special?**

It’s our people that help make IREL so special. Not only will participants learn directly from the founders/co-directors of IREL (see next page), participants are also grouped by grade-level cohort groups led by expert facilitators. IREL participants are guests at a special Authors Panel and book signing event.

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**AUTHOR PANEL**

**Ellen Oh**
Author and Founder of We Need Diverse Books

**Ibi Zoboi**
National Book Award Finalist and Coretta Scott Award-winning Author of Nigeria Jones

**Glory Edim**
Author, Editor, and Founder of Well Read Black Girl

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**a personal experience, guided by expert**

**FACILITATORS**

Amanda Hartman
Tiana Silvas
Keisha Smith-Carrington
Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek

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**an award-winning**
Session 1: Writing Toward Freedom (GR 3-12) – JULY 7-9

Throughout history, social justice and antiracist leaders have used writing as a powerful tool in the pursuit of equality and freedom. Such writers have used their words to raise awareness, point out injustices, and compel fellow citizens to take action. Classrooms are where students can feel empowered — or disempowered — to see and use writing as a vehicle for social change, and teachers play a crucial role in supporting students in using their voices in service of causes they believe in.

Join us as we (re)imagine writing instruction as identity-affirming pedagogy where students have the freedom to draw from their cultural and linguistic knowledge and lived experiences — their interests, realities, joys — as they write toward an equitable and just world.

In this interactive workshop, participants will explore:
- What does a culturally responsive writing workshop look, sound, and feel like?
- How can we encourage kids to write about issues that matter to them?
- How do we meet the challenges and opportunities of technology and artificial intelligence in the writing classroom? How can we support all kids in bringing their authentic voices to life on the page?
- How can we invite students to write in multiple and diverse modalities and genres to better reach their audience?
- How do we help students develop a writing identity that is reflective of and responsive to their personal and social identities?
- And how can we model all of the above as teachers of writing and teachers who write?

Session 2: Reading Toward Freedom (GR K-12) – JULY 11-13

Developing students’ critical thinking skills is urgent, necessary work, and teachers play a crucial role in helping students read the world in ways that empower them to discern bias, misinformation, and disinformation.

From our youngest learners to young adults, we know that it is never too early or too late to build and strengthen our students’ critical thinking skills — and in doing so, we can realize the full potential and promise of creating classrooms rooted in justice and freedom.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will engage in practical classroom strategies as we explore the following queries:
- How can we deepen our own and students’ understanding of how their identities, experiences, and biases impact the way we read and respond to texts?
- How do we help students develop critical thinking skills in this climate of disinformation and fear?
- How do we hold space for nuanced and complex conversations in class while also being responsive to students’ personal and social identities?
- How can we ultimately work with colleagues and alongside students in creating a just society?

DR. SONJA CHERRY-PAUL (she/her) is an educator, author, founder of Red Clay Educators, and co-founder of the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy. She is the host of The Black Creators Series, an education-focused platform that highlights the work of Black authors and illustrators. Sonja provides professional development for schools and organizations on advancing the work of antiracism. She is the adapter of the #1 New York Times Best Seller Stamped (For Kids) and the co-author of Teaching Interpretation: Using Text-Based Evidence to Construct Meaning (2014), Flip Your Writing Workshop: A Blended Learning Approach (2016), Breathing New Life into Book Clubs: A Practical Guide for Teachers (2019) and Critical Literacy: Unlocking Contemporary Fiction (2020). Her new book, Antiracist Reading Revolution: A Framework for Teaching Beyond Representation Toward Liberation, will be published in May 2024.

TRICIA EBARVIA (she/her) is a co-founder of #DisruptTexts and co-founder/director of the Institute for Racial Equity in Literacy (IREL). Tricia Ebarvia advocates for literacy instruction rooted in equity and liberation through critical literacy. An educator with more than 20 years of classroom experience, she is currently the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at PK-8 independent school in Philadelphia. Previously, Tricia taught and served as English department chairperson at a large public high school where she taught courses in American literature, AP Language, and AP Literature. Tricia’s work has been featured in various publications and academic journals and the author of Get Free: Antibias Literacy Instruction for Stronger Readers, Writers, and Thinkers.
Space may be limited. Register today to ensure your participation.

**Individual Rates**
- $250 per session
- $450 for both sessions

*Registration rate includes:* all session events, a daily boxed lunch, materials, access to a digital folder of resources, personalized certificate of attendance

**Group Rates**
Group rates for teams of 5+ from the same school may be available. Please contact Sonja and Tricia directly for more information at SonjaandTricia@TheIREL.org

**Travel and Accommodations**
All IREL events will take place at the MLK, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington D.C. Directions and parking can be found directly on the library website. Information about travel and hotels are available on TheIREL.org. Participants will be emailed special rate codes for hotels upon registration.

**NOTE:** When making your travel plans, please keep in mind that the IREL Author Panel will take place on Wednesday, July 10. Participants from either session are invited to attend.

**How to Register**
**ONLINE** (credit card): Go to TheIREL.org > Registration

**BY MAIL** (check): Checks payable to Red Clay Educators.
Complete the form below and mail form and check to:
Red Clay Educators
1767 Central Park Avenue, Suite 391
Yonkers, NY 10710

**Cancellation Policy**
If you cancel up to two weeks prior to the institute, you are entitled to a full refund. If you cancel within one week of the institute, your tuition will be refunded 50%. If we do not receive prior notice of cancellation, in writing to SonjaandTricia@TheIREL.org, there will be no refund given.

**Credit**
Please check directly with your school or district on how to apply for continuing education credit. Personalized certificates of attendance with participation hours will be provided by IREL.

Register for IREL24

Complete form below to register by check. To determine which rate applies to you, please review the criteria at the registration link at TheIREL.org. For all credit card transactions, please register online.

- **SESSION 1:** Writing Towards Freedom (JUL 7-9) - $250
- **SESSION 2:** Reading Towards Freedom (JUL 11-13) - $250
- **SESSION 1 and 2:** Writing Towards Freedom (JUL 7-9) and Reading Towards Freedom (JUL 11-13) - $450

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- **Check**
  - Payment due upon registration.
  - Credit card payments must be made online at TheIREL.org

  **Check Number**

  **Amount enclosed**

If registering more than one individual, please fill out this form for each individual and include with payment.

Be sure to consider using funds from Title I Part A; Title II Part A and B; Title III Part A; Title V Part A; and Title VII Part A to help fund your professional development at this institute.