

PAUL H. RICKS
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EDUCATION

2019

Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction, Literacies and English Language Arts

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

Dissertation: “Taking Read-Alouds Seriously: An Examination of Picturebook Read-Aloud Discussions with Teacher Candidates and Their Instructor”

Dissertation Chair: Vivian Yenika-Agbaw

2014

M.A. in Teacher Education, Literacy

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Thesis: “Components of Effective Writing Conferences in a Sixth-Grade Classroom”

Thesis Chair: Timothy Morrison

2009

B.S. in Elementary Education (major); Portuguese (minor)

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, Assistant Professor

Fall 2019-Present

EL ED 340—Children’s Literature

Survey course in children’s literature

Mission Statement: I serve teacher candidates by engaging in discussions about and examinations of children’s literature as we unpack our unique tastes, biases, limitations, and understandings as readers.

Winter 2023-Present

ECE 340—Literature for Young Children

Survey course in children’s literature

Mission Statement: I serve teacher candidates by engaging in discussions about and examinations of texts for the youngest readers.

Fall 2022

TED 612—Teacher Learning, Development, and Mentoring
Master's course focusing on teachers as adult learners

Mission Statement: I serve educators by engaging in co-constructed learning experiences designed to help us unpack our unique strengths and weaknesses as adult learners and mentors.

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, Instructor

Fall 2018/ Spring 2019

The Art of the Picturebook—World Campus

Graduate-level course examining the artistry of picturebook illustration

Fall 2017/Spring 2018

Learning in Informal Spaces

Undergraduate course guided by place-based, play-based, and experiential learning theories

Fall 2016/Spring 2017/Spring 2018

Teaching Children's Literature—Pre-K-4

Survey course in children's literature

Fall 2016/Fall 2017

Teaching Children's and YA Literature—Grades 4-8

Survey course in children's and YA literature

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, Instructor

Fall 2015/Winter 2016/Spring 2016

El Ed 340—Children's Literature

Survey course in children's literature

One World University, Maputo, Mozambique, Instructor

Summers 2007/2008

Technology, World History, and English classes

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Emerson Elementary School, Salt Lake City, UT, Classroom Teacher

2009-2015

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Nibley Park Elementary School, Salt Lake City, UT, Classroom Teacher

2008-2009

Fifth Grade

STUDENT MENTORING

Graduate Committee *Chair*

Madison Weeter, MA (TED)—2024-Present

Madison Smith, MA (TED)—2024-Present

Kari Allsup, MA (TED)—2022-2024

Thesis: Preparing for and engaging middle school students in read-alouds of expository texts.

Mentored Research Article: Allsup, K. (2025). Co-creating a community of learners through interactive read-alouds of expository texts. *The Utah English Journal*, 53, 8.

Adrianna Galtieri, MA (TED)—2020-2024

Thesis: Power in picturebooks: A teacher's critical content analysis of illustrated versions of Little Red Riding Hood.

Carrie Crowe, MA (TED)—2020-2023

Thesis: Critical engagements with award-winning picturebooks: My journey in creating a more equitable classroom library

Mentored Research Article: Crowe, C. (2024). Windows and mirrors. *The Utah English Journal*, 52, 36.

Rylee Carling, MA (TED)—2019-2020

Thesis: Damsel in distress or princess in power? Traditional masculinity and femininity in young adult novelizations and the effects on agency

Graduate Committee *Member*

Christina Sikich, MA (TED)—2024-Present

Jessica Pierce, MA (TED)—2024-Present

Karla Perry, MS (SPED)—2024-Present

Merna Raines, MA (CPSE)—2022-2024

Thesis: A century of depicting characters with disabilities in Newbery Award and Honor books.

Amie Bigelow, MA (TED)—2022-2024

Thesis: "I just have big emotions okay?!" Exploring emotional literacy through picture books.

Megan Hodgman, MA (TED)—2022-2024

Thesis: Teachers' beliefs, values, and practices in collaborative writing conferences with bilingual students.

Isabel Hull, MS (CPSE)—2022-2024

Thesis: Teaching resilience in Pacific Islander children through culturally adapted stories.

Melody Green, MA (TED)—2020-2022

Thesis: Tensions and pitfalls in the depiction of multiracial characters in children's picture books: A critical content analysis

Samuel Furner, MS (IP&T)—2019-2020

Capstone Project: Experience design in an informal learning environment: The redesign of a library exhibit

Undergraduate Honors Student Mentoring *Chair*

Kelly Dickson, BS (EL ED)—2022-2023

Thesis: Empowering the heroes of tomorrow: A literary analysis of portrayals of protagonists' agency in award-winning fantasy novels and its educational implications

Funded Student Mentoring

Gena Fernandez, Hannah Benson, Hannah Bezzant, Lindsay Aldous, Alexys Skidmore, Madelyn Barzee, & Hanna Natalie. MSE Inspired Learning Grant. March 2024-December 2024.

Sara Koford. MSE Experiential Learning Grant. June 2020-June 2021

Other Mentored Teaching Experiences

Alyssa Keeler, Teaching Assistant—2024-Present

Eliza Biesinger, Teaching Assistant—2024-Present

Hannah Hammer, Teaching Assistant—2024-Present

Jenna Saunders, Teaching Assistant—2023-2024

Addie Beeson, Teaching Assistant—2023-2024

Hannah Wakefield, Teaching Assistant—2023-2024

Rachel Ostler, Teaching Assistant—2023

Maddie Brunner, Teaching Assistant—2022

Ariahna Groesbeck, Research and Teaching Assistant—2022

Christina Sikich, Research and Teaching Assistant—2022

Maddie Godfrey, Research and Teaching Assistant—2022

Rebecca Harper, Teaching Assistant 2021-2022

Scotty Renslow, Teaching Assistant—2020-2021

Melissa Peterson, Teaching Assistant—2020-2021

Nicole Cook, Teaching Assistant—2020-2021

Caleigh Niesporek, Teaching Assistant—2020-2021

Rachael Buchanan, Research and Teaching Assistant—2020

Sara Koford, Teaching Assistant—2020

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Blue = Mentored Students (*Bachelor's, **Master's)

****Hull, I.M.**, Cutrer-Párraga, E.A., **Ricks, P.H.**, Kawika Allen, G.E., Hall-Kenyon, K.M., Seu, L., Urbina, K.J., Garrett, M.F. (2025). Mirrors for Pacific Islander children: Teaching resilience through culturally adapted bibliotherapy. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 22(3), 430.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph22030430>

****Pulu, M.G.**, Cutri, R.M., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Young, T.A. (2024). Tensions and pitfalls in the depiction of biracial characters in children's picturebooks. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 26(1), 112-129. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15210960.2024.2380990>

Ricks, P.H., Young, T.A., ***Godfrey, M.E.**, ***Groesbeck, A.G.**, & ***Sikich, C.M.** (2024). Defining beauty: A critical multicultural analysis of anthropomorphic fairy tale characters. *Children's Literature in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10583-024-09581-z>

Young, T.A., Kganetso, L., & **Ricks, P.H.** (2024). Sounds of silence: Sharing wordless picturebooks in the classroom. *The Reading Teacher*, 78(1), 90-94. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2336>

****Buchanan, R.L.**, **Ricks, P.H.**, & Young, T.A. (2024). Narrative blossoming: The symbiotic relationship of Newbery novels and their graphic adaptations. *Children's Literature in Education*, 55, 60-74. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10583-022-09495-8>

Young, T.A., **Ricks, P.H.**, & MacKay K.L. (2023). Engaging students with expository books through interactive read-alouds. *The Reading Teacher*, 77(1), 6-15. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2210>

Ricks, P.H., Young, T.A., & ***Koford, S.** (2023). Methods for selecting paired picturebooks for critical conversations. *The Reading Teacher*, 76(6), 784-792. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2180>

Ricks, P.H., & Young, T.A. (2023). The negotiations and co-creations that occur during a picturebook read-aloud. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 124, 104013. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2023.104013>

Ricks, P.H., Young, T.A., & ***Koford, S.** (2022). Challenging single stories: A critical multicultural analysis of paired picturebooks about immigration. *The Dragon Lode*, 40(2), 16-21.

Ricks, P.H., & Yenika-Agbaw, V. (2021). Playing tug of war: The tensions of teacher candidates and their instructor during interactive picturebook read-alouds. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 108, 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tate.2021.103526>

Yenika-Agbaw, Y., Hudock, L., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Rodriguez-Astacio, R. (2017). The disenfranchised learner. *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, 13(1), 216-220.

Ricks, P.H., Morrison, T.G., Wilcox, B., & Cutri, R. (2017). Effective writing content conferences in a sixth grade classroom: A cross-case analysis. *Literacy Research and Instruction*, 56(2), 114-131. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19388071.2016.1275069>

Mackay, K.L., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Young, T.A. (2017). Supporting young writers with award-winning books. *The Reading Teacher*, 71(2), 177-187. <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1628>

Young, T.A., Ward, B.A., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Day, D. (2016). Combatting aliteracy: Children's literature professors offer advice to help preservice teachers fall in love with reading. *The Dragon Lode*, 35(1), 8-15.

Ricks, P.H. (2016). "I heard a voice, a rhythm, and I began, and off I went": An interview with Sharon Creech. *The Dragon Lode*, 34(2), 55-58.

Under Review

Blue = Mentored Students (*Bachelor's, **Master's)

Kganetso, L., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Young, T.A. (under review). We need diverse books: An analysis of award-winning children's nonfiction. *Literacy Research and Instruction*.

Young, T.A., Ward, B.A., Hadaway, N.L., & **Ricks, P.H.** (under review). *Poetic images: Looking at the stories behind illustrations in poetry collections*. IGI Global Publishing.

Brandt, L., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Clark, S. (under review). (Re)conceptualizing teacher read-alouds to bring more power to instruction. *The Reading Teacher*.

Invited Article in Refereed Journal

Ricks, P.H., & Hudock, L.H. (2022). Dear Vivian: A tribute to our academic mother and friend. *Journal of Children's Literature*, 48(2), 59-62.
https://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/uploads/1/1/8/6/118631535/7-jcl_48-2_scholarscommentary.pdf

Books and Book Chapters

Gates, J., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Rodríguez-Astacio R.M. (2020). Interrogating whiteness: A critical content analysis of notable picture books recommended by the National Council for the

Social Studies. In S. Shear & A. Hawkman (Eds.), *Marking the invisible: Articulating whiteness in social studies* (pp. 139-167). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Ricks, P.H. (2018). Critical conversations using Native American autobiographies. In V. Yenika-Agbaw, R.M. Lowery, & **P.H. Ricks** (Eds.), *Using nonfiction for civic engagement in classrooms: Critical approaches* (pp. 69-81). Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield.

Ricks, P.H. (2018). Conclusion: A few thoughts on using nonfiction texts in the twenty-first-century classroom. In V. Yenika-Agbaw, R.M. Lowery, & **P.H. Ricks** (Eds.), *Exploring nonfiction literacies: Innovative practices in classrooms* (pp. 103-105). Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield.

Book Reviews and Magazine Articles

Ricks, P.H. (2016). The art of the unspoken: A few words on wordless picture books. *Literacy Today*, 33(6), 16-17.

Wilson, S., Crosser, C., **Ricks, P.H.**, Richards, T., & Siebert, S. (2016). What's notable in children's and young adult literature: Highlighting graphic literature and poetry. *The New England Reading Association Journal*, 51(2), 91-109.

Ricks, P.H. (2015). Favorites of 2015. *Utah Journal of Literacy*, 18(2), 37-42.

Ricks, P.H. (2015). A little humor, a little drama, and some non-fiction with a little of both. *Utah Journal of Literacy*, 18(1), 37-41.

Ricks, P.H. (2014). Recommendations from a nerdy teacher. *Utah Journal of Literacy*, 17(2), 32-38.

PRESENTATIONS

National and International Presentations

Ricks, P.H., Kganetso, L., & Young, T.A. (November, 2024). Silent Orchestration: Sharing Wordless Picturebooks in the Early Childhood Classroom. National Association for the Education of Young Children, Anaheim, CA.

Ricks, P.H., & Young, T.A. (March, 2022). The Harmonies and Dissonances of Paired Picturebooks. The United States Board on Books for Young People, Nashville, TN.

Ricks, P.H., & Young, T.A. (November, 2021). Disrupting Single Stories Through Interactive Read-Alouds of Critically Paired Picturebooks. National Council of Teachers of English, Louisville, KY.

Ricks, P.H., & Young, T.A. (October, 2021). Critical Conversations Through Read-Alouds of Paired Picturebooks. American Association of School Librarians, Salt Lake City, UT.

Gates, J., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Rodríguez-Astacio, R. (April, 2019). Making the Invisible Visible: Articulating Whiteness in Curriculum and Content. American Educational Research Association, Toronto, CAN.

Gates, J., **Ricks, P.H.**, & Rodríguez-Astacio, R. (November, 2018). Interrogating Whiteness: A Critical Content Analysis of Notable Picture Books Recommended by the National Council for the Social Studies. College University Faculty Assembly, Chicago, IL.

Ricks, P.H. (June, 2017). Are We Talking about the Same Book?: A Single Translation with Multiple Effects. Children's Literature Association, Tampa, FL.

Ricks, P.H., Morrison, T., Wilcox, B., & Cutri, R. (November, 2015). Components of Effective Writing Content Conferences in a Sixth-Grade Classroom. Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, Costa Mesa, CA.

State Presentations

Ricks, P.H. (August, 2023). Creating Critical Conversations with Children's Texts. Mormon Women for Ethical Government Book Club, Salt Lake City, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (June, 2023). Facing and Embracing Controversy: The Case for Using Banned Books in Schools. UNLV Alternative Route to Licensure Symposium, Las Vegas, NV.

Ricks, P.H. & Young, T.A. (February, 2023). Connections, Celebrations, and Community: Shining a Light on Diverse Books for Elementary Classrooms. Utah Branch of the National Association of Multicultural Education, Orem, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (June, 2021). Dismantling Single Stories: How to Prepare for Picturebook Read-Alouds That Deconstruct Stereotypes. UNLV Summit on the Research and Teaching of YA Literature, Las Vegas, NV.

Ricks, P.H. (February, 2020). Diverse Text Sets: Creating Critical Conversations by Pairing Multicultural Picturebooks. Utah Branch of the National Association of Multicultural Education, Orem, UT.

Young, T.A., & **Ricks, P.H.** (March, 2016). Increasing Global Understanding with International and Multicultural Literature. Utah National Association for Multicultural Education, Salt Lake City, UT.

Young, T.A., & **Ricks, P.H.** (March, 2016). What Does It Take to Create a Reader? Utah Association of Teacher Educators, Orem, UT.

Ricks, P.H., & Young, T.A. (January, 2016). Award Winning Books for Emerging and

Beginning Readers. Utah Association for the Education of Young Children, Springville, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (October, 2015). Components of Effective Writing Content Conferences in a Sixth-Grade Classroom. Utah Council of the International Reading Association, Salt Lake City, UT.

Local Presentations

Blue = Mentored Students (*Bachelor's, **Master's)

Ricks, P.H. (March, 2024). Activating Activist Read-Alouds. Literacy Promise Conference, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (December, 2023). Making the Case for Graphic Texts. Alpine School District, American Fork, UT.

Ricks, P.H., & Young T.A. (October, 2023). Giving Voice to Wordless Picturebooks. For the Love of Reading, Midway, UT.

Ricks, P.H., Young, T.A., & Irion, K. (July, 2023). Spotlight on New Books : Some of Our Favorites (So Far). BYU Symposium on Books for Young Readers, Provo, UT.

Smith, B. & **Ricks, P.H.** (June, 2023). Seeing the World in New Ways. SOAR Summer Program, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (March, 2023). Combatting Aliteracy: Making Reading Fun Again. Winslow Unified School District, Winslow, AZ.

Ricks, P.H. (March, 2023). Little Red Riding Hood(s): Different Takes on a Classic Tale. Provo School District, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (March, 2023). Artistic Engagements with Children's Literature: Co-Creating Spaces for Critical Conversations. Utah Arts Partnership, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (January, 2023). The Art of Storytelling. Grovecrest Elementary School, Pleasant Grove, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (January, 2023). Getting Graphic: Making the Case for Graphic Texts in Elementary Classrooms. Provo School District, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (October, 2022). Methods for Pairing Picturebooks for Interactive Read-Alouds. For the Love of Reading, Midway, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (August, 2022). Must Reads: Read-Alouds for Grades 4-8. Provo School District, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H., Irion, K., & **Godfrey, M.*** (July, 2022). Spotlight on New Books. BYU Symposium on Books for Young Readers, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (March, 2022). The Art of Children's Literature. Arts Integration Endorsement, West Jordan, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (September, 2021). Making Reading Fun Again: Enhancing the Literary Experiences of Reluctant Readers. Adult Education Lecture Series, Salt Lake City, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (July, 2020). Spotlight on Five International Picturebooks. BYU Symposium on Books for Young Readers, Provo, UT.

Ricks, P.H. (February, 2020). Picturebooks to Encourage STEM Exploration. Utah Association for the Education of Young Children, Provo, UT.

Young, T.A., & **Ricks, P.H.** (September, 2015). Books Too Good to Miss. Public Schools Partnership Conference, Provo, UT.

Television/Radio Broadcasts

Ricks, P.H. (2024, December). How to Help Kids Love Reading with Professor Paul Ricks. Provo, UT: Y Magazine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGzCGJ39dyE&t=1136s>.

Ricks, P.H. (2022, October). Connection, Understanding, and the Power of Reading Aloud. Seek Learning. Provo, UT: BYU Radio. <https://education.byu.edu/edsociety/podcast>

Ricks, P.H. (2020, July). "Another" in Conversation with Paul Ricks. In J. Simpson (Producer), The Apple Seed. Provo, UT: BYU Radio.

Ricks, P.H. (2020, March). "The Barking Mouse" by Antonio Sacre with Guest Paul Ricks. In J. Simpson (Producer), The Apple Seed. Provo, UT: BYU Radio.

Ricks, P.H. (2020, February). "The King's Storyteller" by Liz Weir with Guest Paul Ricks. In J. Simpson (Producer), The Apple Seed. Provo, UT: BYU Radio.

Ricks, P.H. (2020, January). "Donna Washington" by Donna Washington with Guest Paul Ricks. In J. Simpson (Producer), The Apple Seed. Provo, UT: BYU Radio.

Ricks, P.H. (2015, October). Conferring with Students: Suggestions for Parents (Radio broadcast episode). In J. Rose (Producer), Top of Mind. Provo, UT: BYU Radio.



SERVICE

Service in the Profession

USBBY Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities List, Committee Member
2022-2024

Reviewed children's texts featuring characters with unique abilities

Elementary School Journal, Reviewer

2022-Present

Reviewed and provided feedback on submissions for feature articles

Journal of Children's Literature, Reviewer

2019-Present

Reviewed and provided feedback on submissions for feature articles

The Journal of Educational Research, Reviewer

2020-Present

Reviewed and provided feedback on submissions for feature articles

Teaching and Teacher Education, Reviewer

2020-Present

Reviewed and provided feedback on submissions for feature articles

Journal of Children's Literature, Column Editor

2019-2022

Mentored authors submitting articles for the Teachers' Voices column

The Association for Mormon Letters Middle Grade Novel Award, Committee Member

2019-2020

Reviewed YA novels by LDS authors

University Service

Library Advisory Council, Committee Member

2021-Present

Provided university librarians with a more complete understanding of how they can attend to the needs of MSE faculty

BYU Symposium on Books for Young Readers, Committee Member

2019-Present

Planned and organized symposium for educators and librarians

College Service

Literacy Promise Conference Committee, Committee Member

2022-Present

Planned and organized an annual conference for educators who specialize in literacy instruction

Undergraduate Recruitment Committee, Committee Member

2020-2023

Planned activities in order to disseminate information to undergraduates who may wish to become teachers

Department Service

The McKay School Student Scholarship Committee, Chair

Decided which students would receive scholarships funded by fellow McKay School faculty

Graduate Faculty Committee, Committee Member

2022-2024

Helped organize and develop the master's program in teacher education

Collaboration Committee, Committee Member

2019-2022

Planned activities and events intended to create a sense of camaraderie and belonging

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The United States Board on Books for Young People—USBBY

International Research Society for Children's Literature—IRSCL

National Council of Teachers of English—NCTE

NCTE Children's Literature Assembly—CLA

National Association for the Education of Young Children—NAEYC
