

## Layers of Reading (Gr 5-9)

**PRESENTED BY****Dr. Michelle Bence & Dr. Miriam Ramzy****SERIES SESSIONS**

| Date              | Time              |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 28, 2025  | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| February 04, 2025 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| February 12, 2025 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| February 27, 2025 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| March 04, 2025    | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM |

**LOCATION****Online****FEE****\$75.00****QUESTIONS?****Contact Us:**[crc-register@aplc.ca](mailto:crc-register@aplc.ca)  
**403-291-0967****REGISTER ONLINE****Visit our website to register:**  
[crcpd.ab.ca](http://crcpd.ab.ca)

### Learning Opportunity

Target Audience: Gr 5-9 instructional leaders, pre-service teachers and teachers are encouraged to attend.

Join Michelle and Miriam for a professional learning series digging into the Layers of Reading development for Middle School Students. Together, we will unpack the research around reading instruction in Jr High, and look at the essential role of disciplinary literacy to support the reading journeys of your students. We will share many strategies and tools that you can carry into your classrooms to support the reading development for all of your learners.

**Session 1:** We begin with an overview of the Layers of Reading Development graphic, and the interconnection between the layers, and the Guiding Principles. We then will look at the foundational role of Phonological Awareness, and how to support PA into junior high.

**Session 2:** Together, we will explore the complexities of English, and how, through a pattern-seeking approach, we can support students in working with letter representations for reading and writing success. Additionally, we will introduce the key role of syllabic and morphological analysis in supporting language development.

**Session 3:** In this session, our target will be Tier 2 academic vocabulary words, one of the biggest indicators of success in school from grade 4 through post-secondary education. We will look at why this is an essential element of instruction, including morphology, and what this can look like in middle school, across the disciplines.

**Session 4:** We will look at the essential role of fluency, specifically prosody and phrasing, in developing secondary students' reading abilities. This session will look at how to structure and plan for fluency practice through both ELA

texts and within the content areas. We will talk about deep and wide reading, and ways to structure fluency practice through the lens of differentiation and meeting the wide range of needs in your classroom

**Session 5:** In our final session together, we will bring everything together through the concept of Fluent Comprehension, the goal of reading. This learning is driven through how we make sense of text, based on our background knowledge and experiences, leveraging student strengths. We will look to ways in which we can support all students to deeply understand text, including text across the disciplines

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## Presenters

### Dr. Michelle Bence

Michelle's passion is literacy. She is an enthusiastic educator with over 20 years of teaching experience as a classroom teacher and literacy specialist. Over the past few years, Michelle has worked extensively with school boards across Alberta, investigating professional teacher learning and evidence-based early literacy practice. Currently, Michelle is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Calgary, examining the connection between oral language development and early literacy acquisition.

### Dr. Miriam Ramzy

Miriam Ramzy works with a school division in Alberta in the role of Curriculum Lead, supporting learners from junior kindergarten through grade 12. The focus of her research, teaching practice, and professional development has been on literacy, reading, and writing. Miriam has her Ph.D. from the Werklund School of Education, with a focus on writing instruction in the elementary years. Alongside Michelle, Miriam partners with school boards across the province in support of literacy education. Her passion is supporting teachers in building powerful literacy classrooms where all learners experience success.

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## Registration Notes

All session times are mountain time.

Each session will be recorded and available for 30 days.



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Opportunities to K-12 Education Staff**