

The Spell of Spelling & The Glamour of Grammar

A two-day* seminar with LEX Author Gina Cooke, MA
Presented by the Children's Dyslexia Center of South Bend

12 CEUs!
12 PGPs!

Dates: Monday-Tuesday, July 29-30, 2013 **Registration:** 8:30am **Seminar:** 9:00am to 4:00pm

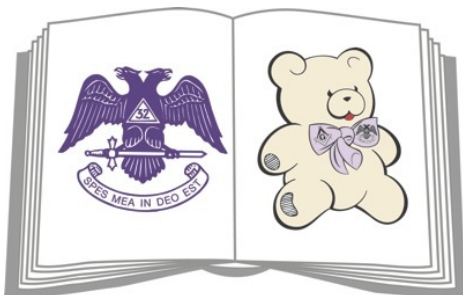
**Choose a Monday-only or Monday-Tuesday seminar!*

Location: Children's Dyslexia Center of South Bend ★ 427 N. Main St. ★ South Bend, IN

For centuries, spelling and grammar have been treated as mysterious and elusive things. Historically, literacy was situated within and controlled by religious institutions, and no significant distinction was made between those who were learned and those who had magical powers. Even in the present day, spelling and grammar are still considered to be cryptic or unexplainable, as evidenced by confusing "rules" and long lists of "exceptions," and by teaching phrases like "magic <e>" or "trick words."

In spite of these common perceptions, written English, like any language, is a highly ordered, rule-based system that can be studied in a structured, sensible way. The job of the writing system is to represent **sense and meaning**. But too often, English spelling and grammar are treated as a messy and unpredictable or impossibly difficult to master. Spelling instruction has focused on correctness rather than understanding, and has relied heavily on lists, memorization, and quizzes, rather than critical inquiry and structure. Likewise, grammar instruction has traditionally been reduced to drills and rote exercises, rather than approached as a structural fact of the language that can be explored and understood.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about written English with a true expert, Gina Cooke. As a linguist in education, Gina strives to bring logically sound, linguistically accurate information and strategies to English language teachers of all stripes. Gina has worked with the Children's Dyslexia Centers since 1999, and has trained hundreds of teachers and supervised the instruction of thousands of children. Currently pursuing a PhD in English Studies at Illinois State University, Gina studies orthography with linguists and educators on six continents. She is a popular speaker at state and national conferences, and her educational materials and TED-Ed spelling videos are used in classrooms and clinics around the world. Gina has taught students about written and oral language from preschool through graduate school, and has a long-range view of literacy development. Her funny, dynamic presentation style is a good match for the compelling facts of English. This seminar will leave you inspired by language structure and better equipped to study and teach it.



The Spell of Spelling & the Glamour of Grammar

- ◆ emphasizes the meaning-making function of written language through its physical structures
- ◆ examines traditional perspectives about English spelling and grammar, including how they're taught
- ◆ debunks pejorative stereotypes of spelling and grammar as pedestrian, unimportant, or boring
- ◆ demonstrates how written *forms* perform various linguistic *functions*
- ◆ offers an enlightening understanding of spelling and grammar and refreshing ways to study them
- ◆ investigates examples of student errors and how they can inform our instruction
- ◆ provides both print and online resources for ongoing learning and consultation

Participants in the seminar will

- ◆ discover the visible structures of the English writing system
- ◆ learn to assess language *knowledge* and *understanding*, not just *correctness* and *memorization*
- ◆ understand how grammatical understanding affects writing skills
- ◆ explore language study resources for ongoing learning and consultation
- ◆ acquire instructional terminology, tools, and strategies to implement the next day
- ◆ take vigorous and robust spelling and grammar knowledge and strategies back to their classrooms
- ◆ be completely captivated by the way written English works!

*Handouts included. Additional materials will be available for purchase.
A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Children's Dyslexia Center of South Bend.*

Fax or email your registration form by 7/10/13 to LEX at
(760) 454-3639 (fax) or ginarama@me.com

To register by mail, please email us for a mailing address. Purchase Orders accepted.

Registration will be confirmed via email.

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- ☐ Monday only Registration Fee: \$100.00 ☐ Monday-Tuesday Registration Fee: \$150.00
☐ Monday Lunch: \$10.00 ☐ Tuesday Lunch: \$10.00

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (H) _____

(W) _____ Email _____

☐ Check (payable to LEX) ☐ Purchase Order Attached # _____ ☐ Credit Card (Visa, MC)

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