

# Word Detectives

12 CPDUs!

**A two-day seminar with Peter Bowers, Ph.D.  
and Gina Cooke, M.A.**

**Hosted by** 

**Date:** November 2-3, 2013

**Registration:** 8:30am

**Seminar:** 9:00am to 4:00pm

**Location:** South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main Street, South Elgin, Illinois 60177 (Room B100)

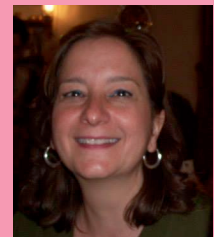
The English language is the medium for instruction for all ages, in all subject areas, but the study of its writing system often remains driven by lists and quizzes rather than by critical inquiry. The Common Core State Standards emphasize the need to foster “students’ understanding and working knowledge of . . . basic conventions of the English writing system,” but provide no tools to unlock this understanding (Bowers & Cooke 2012). Although the English writing system is often presented as defective, opaque, or tricky, it is actually a highly ordered, rule-based system that can be studied in a structured, logical way. This “structured word inquiry” approach eliminates rote memorization for spelling and vocabulary study, and reveals aspects of meaning and linguistic structure that teachers often wish they had learned in college. Peter Bowers and Gina Cooke share this engaging understanding of language study and effortlessly explain how English *makes sense*.

**Appropriate for teachers of all grades and all subjects, and an ideal complement for any reading, spelling, or language arts program.**



Peter Bowers is the founder of WordWorks Literacy Centre, dedicated to the study of the English spelling system as a context for teaching critical thinking and problem-solving. A

former elementary teacher in international schools and in Canada, Pete’s research and international teacher trainings are changing the field of English language and literacy instruction.



Gina Cooke is the founder of LEX, an exchange between people who study language and people who teach it. A linguist in education, Gina offers a keen understanding of the English writing system and

its study. She has taught students from preschool through grad school, and is currently completing her Ph.D. in English linguistics. She finds English orthography to be totally captivating.



## Word Detectives presenters will

- ◆ show how sense and meaning are the purpose of spelling
- ◆ demonstrate how English words are structured to represent meaning
- ◆ explain the historical forces behind Modern English spellings
- ◆ consider the constraints and conventions of phoneme (sound) and grapheme (letter) patterns
- ◆ question the conventional wisdom about phonologically-driven models of teaching
- ◆ provide both print and online resources for ongoing learning and consultation
- ◆ offer tools and strategies to implement the next day

## Word Detectives participants will

- ◆ learn to analyze English words — break them apart — for meaningful, sensible spelling
- ◆ be equipped to develop critical thinking skills through word study
- ◆ see so-called “irregular” words in a new light
- ◆ be engaged with and energized by the facts of English spelling, rather than memorization
- ◆ take vigorous and robust word study strategies back to their classrooms
- ◆ understand the *why* of spelling as well as the *how*

## Materials

- ◆ word study resources and activities will be available in the seminar and online
- ◆ additional materials will be available for purchase

Fax, mail, or email your registration form by **10/28/13** to:

Gina Cooke (LEx), P.O. Box 163, Eureka, IL 61530  
(760) 454-3639 (fax) [ginarama.lex@gmail.com](mailto:ginarama.lex@gmail.com)

### Word Detectives

Saturday Only Registration: \$150.00    Saturday~Sunday Registration: \$250.00

*\*10% discount on registration for cohorts of 3 or more from a single school*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check (payable to LEx) \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card (Visa, MC) # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

