

ERA ITALY PRESENTS:

WORDS THAT LAST: EXTENSIVE READING, LITERACY, AND CRITICAL THINKING IN THE AI ERA.

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026 - ONLINE - FREE



Session Schedule & Timings

WEBINAR 1 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Time	Speaker(s)	Topic
14:30–14:45	Michael Lacey Freeman	Welcoming Message
14:45–15:15	Peter Anderson	Extensive Reading at Anderson House: There is Magic in Every Book
15:15–15:45	Vanessa Hartson Walker & Donatella Fitzgerald MBE	Engaging Students in Reading Inside and Outside the Classroom
15:45–16:00	Break	
16:00–16:30	Sushil Penuti	When Reading Clicks: How Extensive Reading Transforms Language Learning
16:30–17:00	Nóra Wünsch-Nagy	Preparing Secondary School Students for Critical Reflection with Stories
17:00	-	Closing Remarks

WEBINAR 2 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Time	Speaker(s)	Topic
17:30–17:45	Michael Lacey Freeman	Welcoming Message
17:45–18:15	Nóra Wünsch-Nagy	Practising Critical Thinking with Young Readers
18:15–18:45	Vanessa Hartson Walker & Donatella Fitzgerald MBE	Teaching Social Emotional Learning, Citizenship and CLIL Through Stories
18:45–19:00	Break	
19:00–19:30	Jane Cadwallader	Children and Their World: Exploring Ecological Issues of the SDGs Through Extensive Reading
19:30–20:00	Peter Anderson	Extensive Reading at Anderson House: There is Magic in Every Book
20:00	-	Closing Remarks

In collaboration with:



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Our Speakers:



MICHAEL

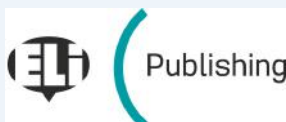
MICHAEL LACEY FREEMAN IS A TEACHER AND ELT WRITER WHO HAS WON EIGHT LANGUAGE LEARNER LITERATURE AWARDS FOR HIS GRADED READERS. HE TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY AROUND SCHOOLS IN ITALY TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT STORIES ARE A POWERFUL TOOL FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING.

PETER ANDERSON IS AN ENGLISH TEACHER WHO HAS OWNED AND RUN A SUCCESSFUL LANGUAGE SCHOOL IN BERGAMO FOR 30 YEARS. THE SCHOOL IS ALSO WHERE HE RUNS AN EXTENSIVE READING PROJECT WITH HIS YOUNG LEARNERS.



PETER

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Our Speakers:



DONATELLA

DONATELLA FITZGERALD MBE IS ADVANCED SPECIALIST, SALES AT PEARSON IN ITALY. SHE IS A TEACHER TRAINER, MINDFULNESS EDUCATOR, AND AN EXTENSIVE READING PROGRAM SPECIALIST. HONOURED WITH AN MBE IN 2024 KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS FOR SERVICES TO ENGLISH EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT.

VANESSA HARTSON WALKER IS THE DIRECTOR AND CREATIVE FORCE BEHIND KIDS CAN ENGLISH SCHOOL. SHE IS A TEACHER TRAINER AND MINDFULNESS EDUCATOR, AND PROMOTES EXTENSIVE READING IN HER SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING.



VANESSA

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Our Speakers:



SUSHIL

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR INCLUSIVE, STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING, SUSHIL PENUTI IS DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING LEARNERS AND TEACHERS ALIKE. AS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR, TRAINER, AND PUBLISHING CONSULTANT, SHE'S SPENT THE LAST FEW DECADES WORKING ACROSS CONTINENTS, FROM BANGKOK TO MILAN, HELPING TEACHERS BREATHE LIFE INTO THEIR CLASSROOMS. AT ELI PUBLISHING, SHE DESIGNS AND DELIVERS HIGH-IMPACT TRAINING ON EVERYTHING FROM EMBEDDING GLOBAL COMPETENCIES AND CRITICAL THINKING INTO LANGUAGE LESSONS TO REENGINEERING TRADITIONAL ELT METHODS FOR TODAY'S LEARNERS, ALWAYS WITH ONE GOAL: TO MAKE ENGLISH TEACHING MORE HUMAN, MORE RELEVANT, AND MORE POWERFUL.

JANE CADWALLADER IS A TEACHER AND A WRITER. AS A TEACHER SHE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE IMPORTANCE OF EXTENSIVE READING AND HOW TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO READ FOR PLEASURE. AS A WRITER SHE AIMS TO DEEPEN CHILDREN'S AWARENESS OF THE WORLD AROUND THEM AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES WE FACE. OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS SHE HAS WRITTEN A RANGE OF GRADED READERS DESIGNED TO CAPTURE CHILDREN'S IMAGINATIONS, APPEAL TO THEIR SENSE OF HUMOR AND BUILD LANGUAGE COMPETENCE WHILE ALSO INTRODUCING THEMES LINKED TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

SHE HAS INCREASINGLY COMBINED HER WRITING WITH WORK ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. SHE NOW SPENDS QUITE A FEW MONTHS EVERY YEAR WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONALS IN A RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTERN UGANDA SUPPORTING INITIATIVES THAT IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN.



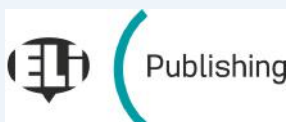
JANE



NÓRA

NÓRA WÜNSCH-NAGY IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH APPLIED LINGUISTICS. SHE HAD WORKED AS A LANGUAGE TEACHER IN VARIOUS SECTORS AND CREATED GRADED READERS. HER RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE MULTIMODAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS, MULTIMODAL LITERACY DEVELOPMENT, MUSEUM LEARNING, ARTS INTEGRATION AND GENRE-BASED PEDAGOGY WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ACADEMIC LITERACY DEVELOPMENT.

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