

To Understand:

Exploring New Horizons in
Reading Comprehension Instruction



Presenter: **Ellin Oliver Keene**

Sponsored by: Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Reading Teachers Association, College of Education and Human Development – George Mason University

Saturday, October 24, 2009

George Mason University, SUB II

Parking: \$10.00 Mason Pond Parking Deck

This workshop will take participants on a journey through the intricacies of the mind, particularly in relation to how we comprehend text. Keene will describe the thinking strategies known to be used by proficient readers and will show how teachers have embraced the strategies for themselves and their students.

The workshop will help teachers infuse in-depth, meaningful instruction in reading into classrooms where teachers and students explore, learn from, and react to a wide variety of text.

Ellin Oliver Keene helped revolutionize how comprehension is taught across the U.S. Her bestselling book, *Mosaic of Thought* (coauthored with Susan Zimmermann) gathers the current research on comprehension strategies to turn it into powerful teaching for any classroom. Her latest book, *To Understand* (2008), takes this conversation beyond strategy instruction. It challenges educators to consider what it truly means to understand, and offers a vision of classroom instruction that takes students to new depths of engagement and comprehension. For 16 years she directed staff development initiatives at the Denver-based Public Education & Business Coalition. She served as Deputy Director of the Cornerstone Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania for four years, where she oversaw literacy and professional learning for teachers in high-poverty schools throughout the nation.

Learn practical strategies for:

- Strengthening students engagement with an understanding of texts
- Using quality children's literature to support the teaching of comprehension strategies
- Helping students articulate and explore their own questions
- Demonstrating to students the complex thinking involved in the reading process
- Designing mini lessons for deepening reading comprehension
- Implementing teaching tips and ideas that benefit struggling readers as well as proficient and advanced readers
- Creating and applying teaching frameworks that can help students extend what they can understand about texts
- Helping students become thoughtful, independent readers who can not only negotiate their way through print, but can probe the depths of its content and themes.

Who should attend?

Classroom teachers in grades K-8, reading specialists, Title 1 staff, Special Education teachers, curriculum personnel, staff developers, administrators, and instructional assistants.

For more information and to register visit **www.fairfaxea.org**