



## Dr. Maria Walthers

Dr. Maria Walther (Teacher and Author) earned a doctorate in elementary education at Northern Illinois University and has taught first grade since 1986. Maria inspires other professionals by sharing her knowledge and expertise through offering insightful, customized professional development presentations and through teaching a number of courses in the Master's of Literacy (MLIT) program at Judson University. She is committed to research, teaching, and writing. She has co-authored five professional books with Scholastic, including the highly regarded Next Step Guided Reading Assessment. Dr. Walther was honored as the Illinois Reading Educator of the Year, earned the ICARE for Reading Award for fostering the love of reading in young learners, and was named the Outstanding Literacy Alumni by the Dept. of Literacy Education at Northern Illinois University. Learn more about Dr. Walther at [mariawalther.com](http://mariawalther.com) and follow her on Twitter @mariapwalther.