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Back Matter

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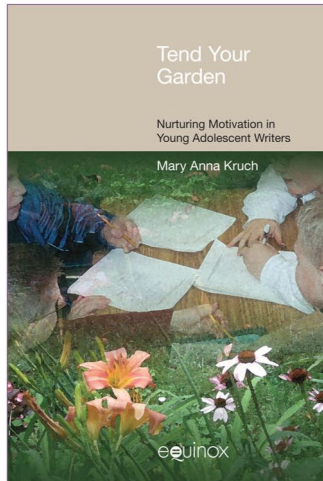
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The Author

Mary Anna Kruch is a full-time writer, having taught young adolescents for thirty years.

She was an Assistant Professor at Grand Valley State University, where she taught writing, children's literature, and literacy methods classes, and a former officer in the Michigan Council of Teachers of English.

Tend Your Garden

Nurturing Motivation in Young Adolescent Writers

by Mary Anna Kruch

Tend Your Garden offers an original and adaptable classroom model, built on a foundation of educational research, for motivating young adolescent writers. The Young Adolescent Motivation Model of Writing (YAMM) places the young adolescent learner, aged 11–14, at its center, surrounded by the components needed to motivate the learner to high levels of academic composition or creative writing. The components of the model are: teaching to the whole child; developing a writing community; presenting motivating, high-interest lessons; integrating process writing across the curriculum; offering choice and critical thinking; building upon each writer's strengths; and using authentic assessment. Each component blends best practice pedagogy with related theory. Sample lessons that fit the needs and engagement levels of young adolescent writers are provided, representing an array of genres and subjects.

Mary Anna Kruch selects and weaves thirty years of classroom teaching experiences into each chapter, inserting her own reflections and inspirations of learning to write along with her students. Teachers will find points of commonality with the author and enjoy reliving their own moments as teachers and as students, as they gain new insights about their own students and the approaches that are effective with young adolescent writers.

"My hope is that through reading this textbook, English educators and future writing teachers will become more invested in creating lessons that reinforce the joy of teaching young adolescent writers as critical thinkers, creative beings, and active citizens of the global community."

— From the Foreword by Kia Jane Richmond,
Associate Professor of English, Secondary Education,
Northern Michigan University