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A Note from Katie

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A Note from Katie

BY KATIE RENER

Dear Readers, Contributors, and Friends,

It has been my pleasure to serve as the editorial assistant to Dr. Leah van Belle for the *Michigan Reading Journal*. Though I am saddened to be leaving this position, I look forward to diving into a semester of student teaching at West Middle School in Plymouth, MI, before completing my education degree. Throughout my time at *MRJ* I have been able to get back to the roots of my love for literature and composition.

By working with various publishing houses, I have grown to appreciate the value and attention to detail they put into creating books that help broaden students' minds and spark interest and excitement in readers. Gaining a greater understanding and scope of books for children and young adults has helped increase my appreciation for the written word and those dedicated to sharing the gift of reading.

I have also greatly enjoyed getting to know our contributing reviewers and manuscript authors. Sharing knowledge and experience is a true benefit to beginning educators such as myself. As I reflect on my time with *MRJ*, I am extremely grateful for the knowledge I have gained and those of you with whom I have had the pleasure of collaborating. Looking into the future, I know I can always turn to the latest issue of *MRJ* and to the *MRA* for resources and ideas about teaching literacy.

Sincerely,

Katie Rener

Katie Rener is an undergraduate student at Madonna University in the College of Education. As an English major, she is pursuing her teaching certificate in secondary education and is passionate about supporting students' creativity as readers and writers. Katie served as the editorial assistant for the Michigan Reading Journal and a reviewer of books for children and young adults. We are delighted that Katie will continue to share great books through her reviews in the Of Cabbages and Kings column, and we wish her the very best for student teaching and classroom teaching beyond.