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From the Editors' Desks

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From the Editors' Desks

BY TAMARA L. JETTON AND LEONIE M. ROSE

Winter is upon us, and we hope to find you sitting beside a fire, wrapped in a cozy blanket, enjoying the latest issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal*. The authors within this issue have provided some interesting perspectives on literacy that will certainly make you think about the literacy practices in your classroom. In the first article, Elenor Francis and Mary Rearick provide an interesting historical perspective on the role of the reading specialist within the field of adolescent literacy. Given the recent focus on reading coaches, we think this article provides a timely depiction of the reading specialist and how a reading specialist might differ from a reading coach. In the second article, Laurie Kaufman continues to focus on adolescent literacy by making an argument for the need to include trade books as a supplement to the traditional textbooks in a middle and high school classrooms. This article provides several valid reasons for the use of trade books, and

she provides a brief list of the kinds of trade books available for use in secondary classrooms. In a similar article, Sharman Siebenthal focuses on how she builds her collection of tradebooks, particularly for folk literature. She points out that teachers should consider an inclusive list of trade books for a particular genre, not just the books of interest to them

As we begin planning for the next Michigan Reading Conference in Detroit during March 20-22, 2010, we thought our readers might enjoy insights into the past conference in Grand Rapids this year. Thus, we devoted an entire section of the *Journal* to the past conference. Scott Peterson leads off the articles with his impressions of the conference. We chose to include Katherine Paterson's keynote address in this issue for those of you who enjoyed it as much as we did. Donna Venglar interviewed another favorite presenter among teachers, Barry Lane, who presented at the conference last year. Lastly, Karen Wixson, a nationally recognized researcher in the field of literacy, graciously gave us permission to reprint an article, outlining the guiding principles for Response to Intervention adopted by the IRA Commission on Response to Intervention. Karen is a member of the commission, and she presented these findings during the 2009 MRA conference.

As we look forward to our next issue, we are delighted to have a special series by Ron Cramer and Tanya Christ that will begin with our next issue and continue for two more issues. The title of this series



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is, "Assessing Reading Knowledge With an Informal Reading Inventory (IRI) and Connecting Findings With Instruction." In these three articles, Cramer and Christ will focus on the assessment of word recognition and comprehension, and how the IRI results connect to instruction.

We encourage our readers to consider contributing to the journal through informative articles about literacy practices in which you have been engaged, and original poetry, short stories or snapshot memoirs. We look forward to hearing from you soon!