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Letter to the Editors

Michigan Reading Journal

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Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

My eighth graders wrote and performed original operas this year: *Of Mullets and Mailmen* and *A Tale of Two Geeks*. They weren't Mozart, but they were good.

I'd like to write an article about how we did this. I've drafted a narrative just to preserve the process in my own mind, but it's obviously not suited for any kind of publication. I'd like to write about where the idea came from, how we used the writing process throughout the entire time, how revising, critical thinking, problem solving, and cooperative learning happened. I want to share how ownership and an authentic audience shaped the writing and revising.

This was such a fabulous learning experience for my kids that I want to share it with other teachers I'm thinking about a "professional-folksy" style of writing. Any information you could give me would be most helpful. Thank you.

Elizabeth Petrides
Flint, MI

Sharing great teaching ideas is one important goal of the Michigan Reading Journal. We think your experience creating an opera would interest many teachers. If it is brief (500-600 words), it may fit into "Teachers as Writers." What you describe, however, sounds like a longer article to submit for feature length. The MRJ Call for Submissions describes the criteria and the review process. If you have questions about how to prepare your draft for review, we will be happy to assist you. We look forward to receiving your manuscript.

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Form MRJ

MICHIGAN READING JOURNAL

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Please return to: Mary Jo Finney or Pat Gallant, University of Michigan–Flint, 303 East Kearsley, Flint, MI 48502-1950

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