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January 2004

## From the Editor's Desk

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### Recommended Citation

Berne, Jennifer I. (2004) "From the Editor's Desk," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 36 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol36/iss2/2>

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# From the Editor's Desk

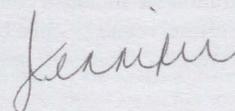
BY JENNIFER I. BERNE

**H**ave you read Stephen King's (2000) memoir *On Writing*? I cannot stop thinking about it. King presents a landscape for the ways in which his reading of the work of others and his own writing are inextricably bound. His suggestion that reading has improved his writing and writing has improved his reading is, in itself, a curriculum for us to consider. He says "If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut." It is helpful to remember that there are no magic fixes for students who struggle with writing, for students who write well but not joyfully, and for those of us who teach writing even as we struggle with our own attempts to put words to paper.

In the interest of "No shortcuts" we are very proud of the writing in this issue. We have teachers from elementary schools, from high schools, and from colleges sharing with us their classroom experiences engaging students in journal writing, the writing of poetry, and the writing of research papers. These ideas are practical because they come right out of classroom experiences, and they are theoretical because they represent research-based instruction in helping students construct and represent their ideas in writing. In this intersection of theory and practice, we find the best praxis of writing instruction.

In addition to practitioners writing about the writing they teach, we present professionals writing about the writing they read: books for young children and for adolescent readers and books on professional development of literacy educators. Our hope is that in these reviews you find books that will excite you and your students and that will incite their own writing in ways so many books incite the writing of Stephen King.

Stay warm. Look ahead. Read and write.



Jennifer

## Call for Manuscripts

*The Michigan Reading Journal*, the refereed journal of the Michigan Reading Association, is seeking manuscripts for publication in future issues. Manuscripts may be on any topic related to literacy, i.e., reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, visually representing, technology, or children's and young adult literature.

Manuscripts should not exceed 2,500–3,000 words.

Author's name, mailing address, telephone number, FAX number, e-mail address, and professional affiliation should be on a separate cover page. The author's name should **not** appear on the manuscript.

Three members of the editorial review board will review all manuscripts.

Charts, graphs, drawings, and high quality photographs pertaining to article topics will be appreciated. Photographs from a digital camera can be submitted digitally.

Send **only** electronic e-mail attachment to:

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