
January 2003

From the Editors' Desks: A Promotion for Writing Instruction

Jennifer I. Berne

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Recommended Citation

Berne, Jennifer I. (2003) "From the Editors' Desks: A Promotion for Writing Instruction," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 35: Iss. 2, Article 2.

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A Promotion for Writing Instruction

By Jennifer I. Berne, Issue Editor

In elementary and secondary schools, writing is often positioned as reading's less glamorous cousin. So much controversy swirls around the teaching of reading, that the teaching of writing is often relegated to a sub-genre of literacy instruction. For this reason, we are particularly proud of this themed issue on writing instruction in schools.

On these pages, you will find thoughtful teachers sharing their views on writing instruction in theory and in practice. The words you read are all from Michigan teachers who work in our schools and our universities. It is a pleasure to get glimpses into their classrooms and their ideas. You will find work about writer's workshops and the very young child as well as work on writing instruction for high school and college students. Our authors cover the writing of poetry, narratives, and expository texts. We hear of teachers as writers and teachers as readers of student writing. We learn about theoretical models as well as classroom practices. These voices represent some of the skillful writing instruction and thoughtful writing teachers in our state. We thank them for their insight and the ideas that will likely encourage our own.

You will find several new features in this issue:

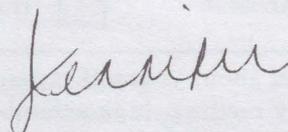
- We introduce the **Creative Writing of Michigan Teachers**. In this initial installment, teachers' work focuses on the complex relationship between teachers and student, teachers and the profession, and teachers and the larger community.
- We are also pleased to begin a new feature called **New and Noteworthy YA Literature**. This ongoing column, written by Ed Spicer, a teacher in the Allegan public schools, will nicely complement Vera Milz's thoughtful reviews of books for younger children.

In an effort to promote professional conversations among Michigan's teachers, we have asked Michigan Reading Professionals to review professional books about literacy instruction. Dr. Pat Daniels of the Oxford School District is our first reviewer. She reviews two texts related to literacy and adolescent boys.

We continue our feature "Voices in Michigan Literacy" with an interview with Dr. Ron Cramer, a nationally known, Michigan-based teacher and teacher-educator. Dr. Cramer shares his thoughts on the evolution of writing instruction over his thirty-plus years in the field.

We are delighted to offer you some thoughts on politics and literacy by Michigan Reading Association President William J. Devers III.

As always, we are anxious to hear your response to the work in this issue. Perhaps the most important thing an issue on writing instruction can do is prompt teachers to create their own writing. We would love to read some of yours.



Jennifer

Call for Manuscripts

The *Michigan Reading Journal*, the refereed journal of the Michigan Reading Association, is seeking manuscripts for publication in future issues. In addition to the themes listed in the Calls for Manuscripts on pages 16, 48, and 49, manuscripts on any topic related to literacy, i.e., reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, visually representing, technology, or children's or young adult literature will be considered. Manuscripts submitted after the specified deadlines will be reviewed for future issues.