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Michigan Educators: A Commitment to Reading

BY KATHLEEN F. CLARK, ISSUE EDITOR

Coming off the Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference, it is clear to me the importance the educators in our state place on reading education. Around the state the dedication and commitment to teaching all children puts us, as Michigan Reading Association President Bill Devers notes, "in good stead." One of our most important practices is the sharing of our experience and knowledge. In this issue you will hear from talented teachers and teacher educators both in and out of our state.

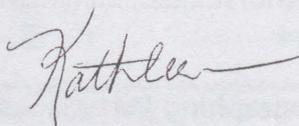
You will learn of the experiences of three Michigan educators as they implement ideas new to them. Kellie Bugajski describes her use of an Internet Inquiry method to differentiate instruction for her more advanced first-grade readers. Susanne Krehel relates her first-grade students' engagement in poetry performance, a practice that has positively influenced her students' oral and written language proficiency. Ann Hager shares her experiences learning to implement reciprocal teaching with high school students who struggle with reading.

Further, three additional Michigan educators contribute valuable information and insights related to recent state and federal reading initiatives. Scott Peterson provides an overview of the new English Language Arts assessment and presents his own field-tested approach to ecologically valid assessment preparation. In a comprehensive discussion, Susan Adkins and Nancy Douglas detail numerous literacy strategies that address the 12 Michigan Department of Education English Language Arts Content Standards. Finally, Sharon Walpole, a Delaware-based colleague, recounts

her varied and layered experiences with the Reading Excellence Act.

In our regular feature "Voices in Michigan Literacy" we hear from Nell Duke, a nationally known, Michigan-based researcher and teacher educator. She shares her considerable insights on the importance of using informational text with young readers. We are delighted as always to present Vera Milz's reviews of books for young readers. In this issue she directs our attention to informational books. Finally, Kathryn Brimmer reviews two recently published professional books on literacy education.

We are proud to share with you these educators' efforts to improve teaching and learning in Michigan classrooms. As always, we encourage you to respond to the work in this issue and invite you to contribute some of your own.



Kathleen

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 specified in the calls for manuscripts on pages 24 and 47, manuscripts on any topic related to literacy, i.e., reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, visually representing, technology, or children's/young adult literature, will be considered. Manuscripts submitted after the specified deadlines will be reviewed for future issues. See page 24 or 47 for submission guidelines.