
February 2001

Thanks: An Editorial

Lorraine Berak

Karen Edwards

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj>

Recommended Citation

Berak, Lorraine and Edwards, Karen (2001) "Thanks: An Editorial," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 33: Iss. 2, Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol33/iss2/2>

From *The Teachers & Writers Guide to Classic American Literature*, edited by Christopher Edgar and Gary Lenhart, 2001, New York, NY: Teachers & Writers Collaborative. Copyright 2001 by Teachers & Writers Collaborative. Reprinted with permission.

This work is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Michigan Reading Journal by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

LORRAINE BERAK
KAREN EDWARDS

Thanks: An Editorial

As your new editors, we would like to sincerely thank all the people who have unselfishly given of their time and talent to help us put together this issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal*. As “neophyte editors” we began with enthusiasm and quickly discovered how much we needed to learn about putting together a journal. The old adage, “When you do it – you learn it!” was certainly true for us. Thankfully, there were many dedicated professionals who acted as our teachers. With their guidance and support we have our first edition ready for publication. We likened our experience to that of children first learning to read and how a supportive environment increases the likelihood of success. To all who were involved, a big THANK YOU.

The Cover

The cover of this issue continues the late Dr. Helen Gill’s focus on tracing the history of American reading instruction through the instructional materials used from 1607 to the present day. Previous covers have documented historical periods prior to 1891. The cover of this winter issue is a collection of pages from James Baldwin’s *School Reading by Grades – First Year* published in 1897. Nila Banton Smith in her book, *American Reading Instruction*, calls the curricular behavior of this time period (from 1891-1910) the period of emphasis upon reading as a cultural asset. The Nation now had leisure time, and people were ready to pursue cultural activities. Readers contained folktales and classics. Also at this time, color was used in the artwork, making objects more pleasing to the reader. In the introduction of his book, Baldwin instructs teachers to notice that the lessons “have been given to the cultivation of a love for the pure, the beautiful, and good.”



Lorraine Berak & Karen Edwards

Also this period notes the arrival of professional books regarding the teaching of reading. For those interested in pursuing these books, we would suggest (a) *Reading: How to Teach It*, (b) *Stepping Stones to Literature*, (c) *The Eighth Reader: The Horace Mann Readers*, (d) *The Rational Method in Reading*.

Current Issue

We have included a variety of articles in this issue from theory to practice. We would like to continue featuring scholarly pieces as well as articles from teachers who are using the research in their day-to-day practices. Challenge yourself, as we did, and submit an article for publication. Please read *The Call for Manuscript* page found at the end of this journal.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Berak

Karen Edwards