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Sigmund A. Boloz

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On the Young Literate Road



POEM BY **SIGMUND A. BOLOZ**

When do children begin,
To believe that they can?
Is there some biological,
Or some natural plan?

Just how is this seed planted?
Where does this inventive notion begin?
When does a child resolve to become a reader?
How does she take this obligation in?

Is there some definite surge,
Or some unequivocal shift,
In attitude or in disposition,
That provides this enormous lift?

A momentous, early step, for certain,
On to the young, literate road,
When she embarks on this delightful journey,
In her semi-literate mode,

And then she announces,
That she "for reals," can read,
Some all-important connection,
For she follows that lead.

But just how is this seed planted?
Where does this inventive notion begin?
When does a child resolve to become a reader?
How does she take this obligation in?

Sigmund A. Boloz has worked with Navajo children for the past 23 years. During the past 15 years he has been principal of Ganado Primary School, which in 1994 was named National Exemplary Program in Indian Education and more recently was selected as the "Best School" by Arizona's Elementary School Recognition Program.

He is a member of the editorial advisory board of the Reading Teacher and is the author of Who Speaks for the Children (Arizona Reading Association, 1993), A Wondrous Ride (Wooded Hill Productions, 1994), Clouds Before the Storm (Wooded Hill Productions, 1994), and Prairie Dog Dreams (Wooded Hill Productions, 1995).