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From the Editor

Harold Karbal

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From the Editor...

Dr. Harold Karbal

When I first noticed the editorials in the April 15th issue of **Newsweek**, I was more than a little dismayed by the thought that here we go again - more criticism. Early in the issue Donald Hall does a piece with the subtopic, My Turn, and titled "*Bring Back the Out-Loud Culture.*" It did not take me very long to realize that he was supporting memorizing and reciting. Although I get more than a little tired by all the experts in education (Hall is a poet and critic), I read this one with more and more interest.

Perhaps it is true that children become better readers and speakers when they recite aloud. Do you remember the times you were assigned the memorization of a poem to be recited aloud and then duly marked off in the teacher's record book? I do not think that is a good answer to making better readers and speakers, especially if every single student in the class must learn the same poem. So while I am not ready to get on the memorization bandwagon, I am not ready to throw it out either. There is a place in our lives when something well written ought to be committed to memory and brought out in our consciousness from time to time.

During the war, it was said that soldiers made prisoners often kept themselves going by bringing back to memory poems and other writings they had learned by heart.



Dr. Harold Karbal

Help us think this one through out there. What are your thoughts and practices vis-a-vis memorizing and uttering? What does the research say? We need to respond to the critics.

We have some unusually good articles to share with you this time. Jerry Jennings, who is so active in our organization and writes frequently on a variety of subjects, has prepared an article dealing with teaching the language arts at a summer camp. Educators in Berrien Springs certainly have a good idea and have put resources behind their attempt to beef up literature, creative writing, dramatics and the like during the summer months when we worry that the children will forget much of what they were taught the other ten months. Judith Kakonis shares with us a talk she gave at the conference. You will be introduced to the Workshop Way and be glad you were. Mary Beth Looby wrote a story for a graduate class in reading, which contains a message about the use of the language arts approach in the classroom worth passing on. Robert Illerich sent us an article that is appearing in the Illinois Reading Council Journal also. We felt we can both use it.

We are pleased to reprint two position papers approved by the MRA Board dealing with computers and reading as well as guidelines for evaluating software. Information about receiving copies of these papers is included in the papers.

This issue of the Michigan Reading Journal marks the end of the first year of editorship that I have undertaken. I certainly wish to thank the contributors. We have all profited by their writing. During the waning months of this school year and certainly during the summer, I look forward to receiving your manuscripts for future publishing. Have a good summer.