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Announcing MRA's Teacher of the Issue

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ANNOUNCING MRA's Teacher Of The Issue

Frances Gill
Reading Consultant
Grand Rapids Public Schools



Much has been said lately about reading specialists doing more consulting with classroom teachers and less instruction with remedial readers. Frances Gill of the Grand Rapids Public Schools is a prime example of a reading consultant who serves classroom teachers.

Frances is the reading consultant at Jefferson Elementary School in Grand Rapids. As such, she has planned numerous activities which assist teachers. What is particularly refreshing about Frances, however, is her insistence that in-service projects always reflect the needs and desires expressed by the teachers themselves. Operating from this "people-centered" base, she has helped Jefferson Elementary establish and maintain a high-quality reading program.

While part of Frances' success can be traced to her involvement of teachers in the decision-making process, this is not the only explanation. A good part of her effectiveness (as with all good teachers) can be attributed to her unusual diligence and com-

mitment to excellence. She works long hours after school is out, both in improving her own knowledge and skill as well as in working on ways to help her teachers.

For Frances, all the effort is worthwhile because the results benefit children. This has been her central concern, both in her own teaching and in her work as a consultant, and she has gained the cooperation, respect and admiration of teachers and administrators as a result.

The Michigan Reading Association is proud to honor Frances Gill, a dedicated professional whose efforts as a catalyst for the improvement of reading instruction exemplifies the role of the reading consultant. Congratulations, Frances!

(Editor's Note: We want to recognize outstanding reading educators. Send your nomination to Dr. Gerald Duffy, 201 Erickson Hall, MSU, E. Lansing, MI 48824 or to Barbara Jacoby, Ingham ISD, 2630 West Howell Road, Mason, MI 48854.)