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From the Editors...

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From the Editors...

by **Kathryn L. Roberts, Ph.D.** and **Poonam Arya, Ph.D.**

Welcome back! As much as we love the rhythm and warmth of summer, the start of a new school year is always exciting. We've had the pleasure of spending our summer curating an excellent collection of articles for this issue, and hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have.

Our fall issue is traditionally a bit of a free-for-all in terms of topics, and this fall is no exception. This issue's articles include two great interviews with authors; articles that center on literacy as visual, oral, and written; and (of course) reviews of fabulous professional books and children's and young adult literature.



**Kathryn L.
Roberts, Ph.D.**



Poonam Arya, Ph.D.

We open the issue with three articles in the *Bridging Research and Practice* section. The first article is by Madeline Langell (Holt Public Schools) and Scott Jarvie (Doctoral Student, Michigan State University), who share their insights on connecting literary themes related to “salvage” to the Flint Water Crisis. The second article comes to us from Dr. ThedaMarie Gibbs Grey (Ohio University) and Dr. Raven Jones Stanbrough (Michigan State University). In their article, these two authors describe how storytelling and debate support #BlackGirlMagic. The third and final *Bridging* article comes to us from Dr. Julie Anne Taylor (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Dr. Danielle DeFauw (University of Michigan-Dearborn), and Glovetta Williams (Detroit Public Schools Community District), who explore the use of modern and contemporary sculptures to engage high school students in writing.

This issue's *Voices from the Region* section includes two articles. First is an article about using teacher-led learning labs for professional development, written by Dr. Erica Hamilton (Grand Valley State University), Annie Hammill (Kentwood Public Schools), Whitney Moore (East Grand Rapids Public Schools), and Ashley Mosley (Cedar Springs Public Schools). The second article comes to us from Dr. David Bates (Concordia University Chicago, IL), who writes about building media literacy through the use of historical documents.

The *Critical Issues* segment of the journal comes to us from Dr. Darin Stockdill (Center for Education Design and Research, University of Michigan), Dr. Elizabeth Birr Moje (University of Michigan), and Rebekah Hornak (Saginaw Intermediate School District). The article is an interview with the MRJ Editors about the new *Essential Instructional Practices for Disciplinary Literacy, Grades 6 to 12* (Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network Disciplinary Literacy Task Force, 2019).

In this issue, we also provide reviews of three professional texts for teachers in a column titled, *Must Read Texts* by Dr. Meghan K. Block (Central Michigan University), Dr. Gina DeBlase (Wayne State University,

MI), and Kaitlin Popielarz (Wayne State University, MI). This section also includes an interview between Kati Hooper (Stevensville Public Schools) and author Jewell Parker Rhodes, alongside book reviews of several of the author's recent books, and suggestions for their use in classrooms. We close the issue with reviews of books from the Great Lakes Great Books Award list, written by Lynette Suckow (Peter White Public Library in Marquette, MI).

We encourage our readers to read updates and information about the journal by liking the Michigan Reading Association page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and searching and following Michigan Reading Association on Pinterest. Our journal email address is mrj@wayne.edu. We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to MRJ. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in our journal to our email address. We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks to our Wayne State University editorial team of Angela Harris and Sarah Schrag, who have done a fantastic job of supporting the work for this issue. We would also like to thank LaShan Mabry and Charissa Elmer from the Michigan Reading Association office; our new MRA president, Theresa Hasenauer; and the MRA board for all of their hard work.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of MRJ, and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us.

Happy Reading!

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