

WHAT'S INSIDE

In this year's Bechtel-winning essay, "Within Words," author Michael Bazzett draws us through a year in his high school English classroom, evoking not just the familiar routines of a school day, but the world outside the window as well. The attention Bazzett pays to the larger world is not incidental. He wants the poetry he teaches in the classroom to open a door to the life that exists beyond those four walls, seconding Wittgenstein's assertion that "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world." Deepening his students' engagement with words, Bazzett argues, means expanding their horizons as well.

Playing with words also meant some serious fun in the jazzy inventiveness of Phillip Lopate's 1970s-era classroom. In an interview with Jenny Williams, Lopate reflects on the evolution of his teaching philosophy on the occasion of the reissue of his classic work, *Being With Children*, excerpted in these pages.

A timely piece by Karen L. Lewis describes how the financial constraints compelling three arts organizations to share resources resulted in an exciting new collaborative curriculum combining photography and poetry. We wrap up the issue with poet and teacher Bertha Rogers' succinct primer on the rewards of teaching—and writing—the sonnet.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and wish you a new year filled with the pleasures and promise of the written word.

— Susan Karwoska

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