

WHAT'S INSIDE

SUMMER IS UPON US, bringing with it a welcome change of pace from the school year. It's a time to regroup, to take a break, to explore new ideas and new places. We present the articles in this issue as food for thought during the months ahead: a mix of teaching ideas, explorations of form, and meditations on literacy, learning, and the art of teaching.

We start with Michael Morse's in-depth exploration of the elegy, which combines a history of the form with a variety of innovative exercises for teaching it in the classroom, honed in workshops he taught for both senior citizens and high-school seniors.

T&W Fellow Charles Conley gives us a portrait of the teaching artist training program run by Community-Word Project, and describes how his initial skepticism about such an endeavor turned to admiration.

Matthew Burgess writes of taking on new challenges in "Ricordiamo," a snapshot of his experience designing a class combining dance and poetry during a summer in Italy. Despite the fact that he spoke no Italian and had never taught such a class, Burgess threw himself into the project without a second thought, and the results, which he shares with us here, were magical.

Rounding out the issue, T&W teaching artist Alisa Malinovich walks us through a classroom exercise for young students using a poem by Nikki Giovanni, and gives us a glimpse of the enthusiastic responses the poem elicited from her students. Poet and high school teacher Andrew Barron looks at what literacy means to those at the margins of society; and former T&W director Steven Schrader, in an excerpt from his recent book, looks back on the vicissitudes of growing up in the New York City of his childhood.

Wherever your own summer plans take you, we hope the pieces in this issue provide fuel for your explorations. Send us a postcard (or e-mail) and tell us about them!

— Susan Karwoska

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Cover photograph by Emma Munger.

"This photo was taken at the von Trapp Greenhouse in Waitsfield, Vermont; the girl in the picture had just fallen down, and the boy was telling his mother the story of what had happened."