

WHAT'S INSIDE

FORTY YEARS AGO the nation's schools were struggling, the war was looking increasingly grim, and revolution was in the air—not to mention on the air-waves, the flip side of the Beatles' newly-released single, "Hey Jude." Teachers & Writers Collaborative grew out of the idealism and outrage that defined the activism of the late '60s and early '70s. Art could change the world! It could make it a better place, or at least a less repressed and more enjoyable place.

Bringing this fervor into the schools created "an authentic educational jolt" in classrooms across the country, in the words of teaching artist Margot Galt, who writes of that time in this issue. Today we have a new war to worry about, and the schools have new struggles, but the budding educational philosophy that gave birth to T&W has "grown muscles," says Galt. "It's got punch to it."

In this, our 40th anniversary issue, we've collected the voices of teaching writers and artists, of students, and of classroom teachers to create an intimate portrait of T&W and the writers-in-the-schools movement over the last four decades. Many of these contributors found their involvement with this movement life-changing, though often in unexpected ways.

Their stories show not only what we've accomplished—changing the way writing, language, and the arts in general are taught in the schools, and "contribut[ing] immensely to the lives of individual children," as teaching artist Meredith Sue Willis writes—but more importantly they also point the way forward from here. After all, we still want to change the world.

—Susan Karwoska

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