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January–February 2003 Issue

### *Editors' Note*

Quite often, dates do not agree with our transformations. New Year's, for instance, seems to reduce newness to a day, and even commemorative months—such as Women's History Month and Black History Month—seem to imply a confinement instead of an enduring dialogue.

At *Teachers & Writers*, we know that much more needs to be done to extend the dialogue beyond the parentheses, but we also believe that commemorative months do help us to pause: they assign us something, and create a place for reflection in the midst of our usual haste.

This issue of *Teachers & Writers* features articles specifically related to African-American literature together with essays on teaching Polish poetry (Sarah McCarthy), the relationship between envy and writing (Sharon Dolin), Kenneth Koch's groundbreaking teaching (Steve Seidel), and mentorship and slam poetry (Marco Villalobos).

February is a short month, but one that houses the birthdates of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Our magazine is small, but one that houses the words of Colson Whitehead, Willie Perdomo, and Toni Morrison.

—Christopher Edgar & Christina Davis

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