

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

May–June 2003 Issue

### *Editors' Note*

The fact that summer is around the corner inspired us to inquire into the history of summer vacation. In Europe, Asia, and South America, short school years with long vacations are not the norm. Journalist Rachel Stark writes that “children in most industrialized countries go to school for more days per year and more hours per day than in America.”

The evolution of the American summer vacation remains a mystery, especially considering the striking disparity between the length of students' summer vacations and the typically brief vacation allotted to the American worker.

While some have argued that summer vacation grew out of the agrarian need to bring in the harvest during the dog days, historians at Old Sturbridge Village—a living history museum in New England—contend that farm children actually took their vacations in the fall (September–November) and spring (April–May). Nineteenth-century urban schools, by contrast, were in session for a grueling eleven months—reflecting a society that revolved less around seasonal necessities, and more around the standardized calendar of factories and mills.

Whatever the rhyme or reason, we wish you all a restful, productive, and lengthy summer.

—Christopher Edgar & Christina Davis

<b>Passwords</b>	3
<i>Teaching Pablo Neruda and Bei Dao</i> Amanda Leigh Lichtenstein	
<b>Letters to a Young Writer</b>	9
Dave Morice Erika Dreifus	
<b>Illuminations</b>	17
<i>Great Writers on Writing</i> E. L. Doctorow	
<b>The Literary Anatomy</b>	19
<i>Teaching the Cinquain</i> Corie Herman	
<b>Specimen Days</b>	23
<i>T&amp;W Writer Spotlight</i> Tina Cane	
<b>Endnote: Pet Peeves</b>	27
<i>What's Not to Like?</i> Nancy Larson Shapiro	