

Edwin A. (Ted) Hoey

Ted began his career as an English teacher, but after three years left the classroom in 1961 to become an editor of a fairly new junior high school periodical called *READ*, published by Weekly Reader Corporation. Initially *READ* was launched as a social studies periodical in the tradition of *My Weekly Reader*. Under Ted's able leadership, the magazine shifted focus to the language arts curriculum. As the young adult genre began to flourish, so did *READ* due in part to Ted's commitment to the needs of classroom teachers.

Being a loyal member of NCTE, each year (except the year he retired) he attended the NCTE Annual Convention wherever it was held to attend workshops, to engage teachers in conversations about ways to motivate their students to read, and to link reading with fun creative writing activities. He also came to NCTE conventions to interview the most recently published young adult authors--writers like Robert Cormier, Lois Lowry, Kathleen Paterson, Walter Dean Myers, Jerry Spinelli, among others. These authors found a home for their fiction within the digest sized *READ* magazine.

When Ted retired in 1997, after 36 years as editor of *READ*, Weekly Reader Corporation and NCTE joined hands to honor his valuable contribution to middle school teachers and, over the years, millions of middle school readers. Although Ted Hoey prefers to remain rather anonymous, he is indeed proud that Weekly Reader and NCTE recognize the importance of middle school teachers in challenging their students to become critical thinkers as well as critical readers.