From the Editors

Since learning is an embodied, multidimensional process, meaningful teaching must echo these features; it must recognize that humans experience the world through their senses and that text is multimodal. The contemporary trend toward standardization results in the reduction of ideas to binaries and to learning as a technical, measurable, brain-based activity. Such perceptions negate the multifaceted nature of reading and generating text. Further, they contradict the essence of teaching and learning.

The essence of teaching and learning involves teachers, students, and content. The possibilities of the junctures of these infinite variables defy imagination—as meaningful teaching always will. Teachers and students consume and produce texts, then combine and revise and reproduce knowledge around texts. Using all of our senses, our whole physical selves, we interact with words and each other in expected and innovative ways that reflect who we were, who we are, and who we hope to become. We use classic texts to invent modalities and create new texts to connect to the past. We focus on questions and collaborate to devise and express answers.

Contrary to the notion that texts are flat, static entities designed to yield foreseeable responses, authors in this issue reveal various ways in which texts can be crafted and understood. Articles link English classrooms to improvisation, radio, and the “shape of voice.” Authors expand and reshape conceptions of texts in English teaching, focusing on the multidimensionality of children’s books, “image essays,” and art as meaning-making. In addition, the boundaries of the field are stretched through social media, as well as in the application of sj Miller’s queer literacy framework.

We are delighted to share with you an English Journal devoted to the eclectic, exciting developments shaping the present and future of English classrooms. And we invite you to imagine how you and your students can engage with texts in ways that stimulate your senses and celebrate your humanity.

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