

## Introduction

Welcome to the very first issue of *ECV—Engaging Cultures & Voices: The Journal of Learning English through Media*.

We are dedicated to removing barriers for people who engage in the (hugely) important work of integrating the teaching and learning of language with media, technology, and culture.

**Therefore, we are an international, interdisciplinary, blind peer-reviewed, free, online journal.**

Following is a brief preview of the readings that we hope you will share with your colleagues, students, and others:

- ✓ Ning Chang’s, “**Doing Digital Poetry Empowers Language Learners,**” is a mini-case study of how “David,” a student from Turkey, was encouraged to compose and share digital poetry, often about his home.
- ✓ Joseph G. Tillman’s, “**A World of Pure Imagination,**” explains how and why he asks the teachers enrolled in a TESOL methods course to read and respond to *The Arrival*, a graphic novel by Shaun Tan that contains no language—only images.
- ✓ Laura K. Bangert, who was enrolled in Dr. Tillman’s Second Language Acquisition course, responded to his invitation to explore Tan’s graphic novel. Ms. Bangert’s “**It’s Not What’s Behind You, It’s What Lies Ahead,**” articulates how this book speaks to all who venture forth.
- ✓ Colleen Sheehy and Karina Clemmons, in “**Essential Tools for Learning in the Digital Age: Media Literacy for English Language Learners,**” argue for the inclusion of media literacy in the teaching of ELL students. They provide specific examples of assignments based upon video games, political/editorial cartoons, animated cartoons, news web sites, and digital and print images.
- ✓ Nilufer Guler and Ning Chang use electronic media in their **book review of Scott McCloud’s *Understanding Comics***—a seminal source for informing any teacher about the rich interplay of visual and verbal text.

We hope you will find this issue informative, insightful, and useful. We also hope that you will wander around our web site to learn more about our Advisory Board and other features. Please consider sending us material and passing this issue on to your colleagues, administrators, students, and others.

Kind Regards,

Roy F. Fox

Executive Editor, *ecv*