

Word, Music, Image:

Making the World a More Humane Place

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the Fall, 2011 issue. We hope you'll find it practical and even inspiring, as you navigate (and sometimes struggle) through the pathways of your career in teaching English and media. After forty years of teaching, I remain convinced that our fascinating but intense work, so little understood by most people, remains among the most humanizing activities imaginable—for our students, as well as ourselves.

You will get a powerful glimpse of this intensely humanizing work in Kaysie Ellingson's "Nurgol's Voice: A Teacher Faces Student Suicide." In Tuan Truong's "Unleash the Power of English Songs," you will "hear" how language and music can capture students' emotions, motivating them to learn English, to think, and to reflect on their own lives.

Fatimah Daud's "Pictures Speak: Graphic Novels for English Language Learners," demonstrates how creating and manipulating words and images simultaneously can assist and motivate students to express their own experiences in powerful new ways.

Finally, please let us hear from you: "Write up" your successes and failures in the teaching of English through media, and reflect on how and why readers might consider experimenting with something similar. And, because our profession is so complex, this is not the only approach you can take (please see our "Editorial Policy" page). After all, language and other symbol systems require many different ideas to make the world a more humane place. It's not easy work, but it's great work.

--Roy F. Fox