

Editor's Note

We are now about halfway through *English Teaching Forum's* 50th anniversary year. And we are still celebrating. We feel justified in prolonging the festivities because sustaining a publication for 50 years merits a big celebration—well, many of them.

Numerous events marking *Forum's* anniversary have already taken place, and more are scheduled in the second half of the year. These anniversary events are occurring among various groups of English teachers in many countries. We are posting photos from some of the celebrations on *Forum's* Facebook page (www.facebook.com/EnglishTeachingForum).

In this issue we continue our “Reflections” series, featuring former editor Tom Miller's commentary on an article he coauthored in 1997 about “Writing for the Reader.” That article analyzes the structure of articles, using the example of the Janet S. Niederhauser article also reprinted in this issue. Another set of reprints, introduced by Jerrold Frank, explores assessment in language teaching.

This issue also reflects on summer—the time of year when teachers and students are out of school for two or three months (at least in the United States). Summer lets students give their minds a break from studying while they take part in physical activities such as swimming, skateboarding, hiking, canoeing, and playing baseball. Vacationing students often take trips with their friends and families, exploring places they don't have time to visit during the school year.

Activities that students enjoy during the summer typically become topics of classroom discussions. When students return to school in the fall, teachers love to ask them, “What did you do during your summer vacation?” And it is not uncommon for English teachers to ask students to write essays about their summer activities or trips.

In a departure from this practice, one of the Classroom Activities, “Summer Vacation Comics,” gives students an opportunity to use comics to *plan* summer vacations. The other activity, “Create Your Own Flag,” was inspired by the prevalence of flags during the summer in the United States. Flag Day is June 14, and the biggest summer holiday is Independence Day, July 4, when the U.S. flag is flying everywhere—from front porches to parade floats.

Of course, a major attention-getter this summer is the 2012 Summer Olympics. Some people will be lucky enough to go to London to attend the games in person, while others will watch their favorite competitions on TV or via the Internet. Perhaps some students will be writing compositions about the Olympics in their English classes this fall.

But... let's save any more talk of fall for the next issue of *Forum*.

—MK