
A Commerative Poem on ARF's First Decade

*Warren Askov, Nickie Askov, Chet Laine,
and Ann Mallery*

We are here to honor with pride and decorum
 The 10th anniversary of our Reading Forum,
Held by tradition at Long Boat Key
 Near the beach and the tennis at the Colony.
From all the groups that we could choose
 ARF is the one most "entré nous."

To our first time colleagues, we welcome you here,
 And we honor all those who've attended each year
We've enjoyed 10 years of ARF's tomfoolery,
 The shrimp boils, raffles, and hand-made jewelry.

BARF Olympics are planned each year by Rick:
 Which favor the clumsy as well as the quick
Gulls, herons, and even an occasional pelican
 Watch every beach athlete compete as well as he can.

In our yearbook we find with each passing edition
That the buzz words change — like “metacognition.”
With the use of that term the thought emerges
To reword the poem by Gellett Burgess:

“I never met a meta thought
I hope I never think one.”
But I’d rather think a purple thought
Than try to think a pink one

We are also urged to be “culturally literate”
(Though a few dissenters refuse to consider it.)
And just like whole grains have entered our diet,
We speak of “whole language” and are all urged to try it.

“Intergenerational literacy” we’ve also explored
Like Otto to Askov to Laine to Ford
As mentors bring students to present to us here,
And we get to know them over papers and beer.

Check-out time can cause great stress
When the tab that you get is a terrible mess,
And the guy at the desk finds computing too hard
When 10 other roommates have charged on your card.

But when it is over and you stand on the curb
Returning to campus seems all quite absurd.
Next year’s proposal will be on your mind;
The research is pending and must be refined.

So come help ARF start its second decade.
Think of us at IRA, NRC, even NADE.
We hope each time that the fun won’t end,
So come next year and bring a friend!