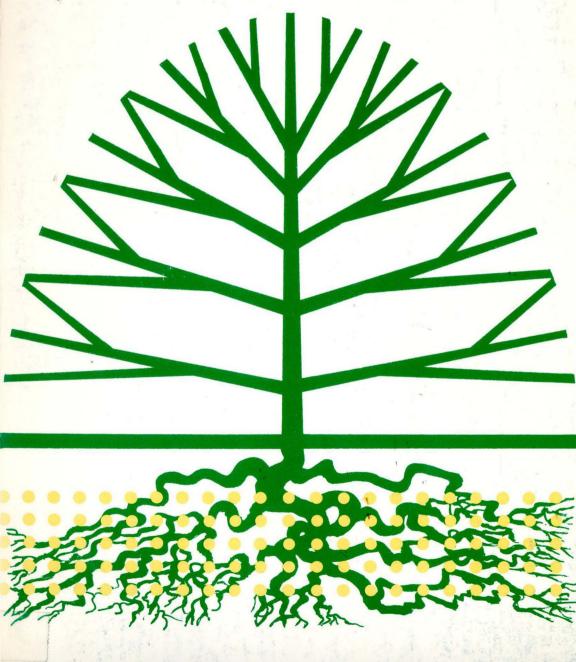
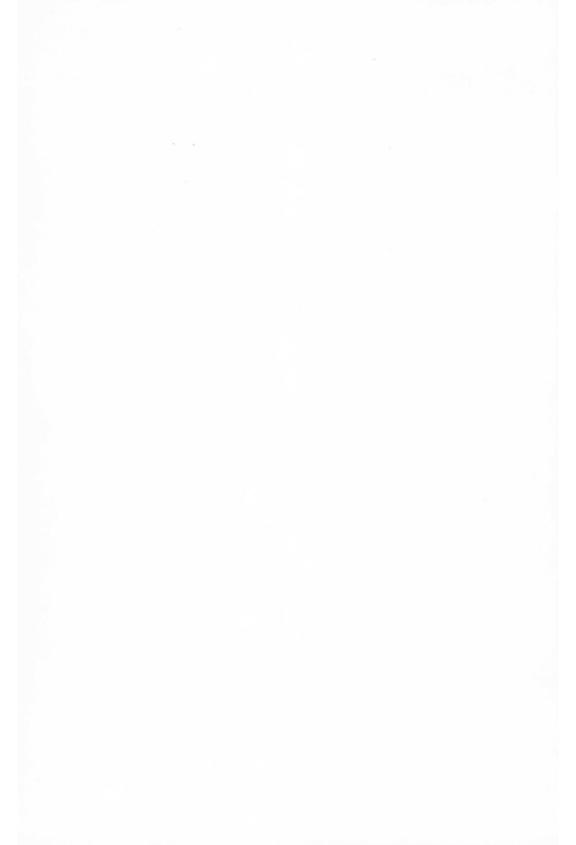
ROOTS IN THE SAWDUST:

WRITING TO LEARN ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES



ANNE RUGGLES GERE, EDITOR

Roots in the Sawdust



Roots in the Sawdust

Writing to Learn across the Disciplines

Edited by

Anne Ruggles Gere University of Washington, Seattle

National Council of Teachers of English 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61801 NCTE Editorial Board: Candy Carter, Julie Jensen, Delores Lipscomb, John S. Mayher, Elisabeth McPherson, John C. Maxwell, *ex officio*, Paul O'Dea, *ex officio*

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The Long Waters

In time when the trout and young salmon leap for the low-flying insects,

And the ivy-branch, cast to the ground, puts down roots into the sawdust,

And the pine, whole with its roots, sinks into the estuary, Where it leans, tilted east, a perch for the osprey,

And a fisherman dawdles over a wooden bridge,

These waves, in the sun, remind me of flowers:

The lily's piercing white,

The mottled tiger, best in the corner of a damp place,

The heliotrope, veined like a fish, the persistent morning-glory, And the bronze of a dead burdock at the edge of a prairie lake, Down by the muck shrinking to the alkaline center.

I have come here without courting silence,

Blessed by the lips of a low wind,

To a rich desolation of wind and water,

To a landlocked bay, where the salt water is freshened

By small streams running down under fallen fir trees.

—Theodore Roethke

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