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## An Introductory Note

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# *An Introductory Note*

Dear Reader,

We could not be more excited about our second issue of *Inklings*. Our weekly workshops allow writers to draft, adapt, and expand on pieces of creative writing over the course of the semester with the help of their fellow Inklings members. The peer-sharing process of reading and then commenting on other peoples' pieces of writing in workshops allows for people from different creative backgrounds, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, as well as people from different class years, to gain familiarity with their peers' writing and to witness the transformation during the semester.

The consistent, prepared, and focused workshops create a close-knit community of writers across class years and majors to share our work with and present the opportunity for collaboration. Establishing this strong writing community enables us to feel comfortable reinventing our pieces throughout the workshops. Furthermore, examining others' work and providing creative and critical responses not only helps the Inklings writer, but also the community of writers, for reading and discussing different genres, structures, styles, and narrative perspectives helps fellow members with their own drafts.

In addition to offering attentive and sensitive criticism of our peers' work, workshops prompt writers to practice reading their work out loud in front of an audience. Although reading out loud can be intimidating, reading in front of club members provides a relaxed setting. Reading one's work aloud each week is an invaluable opportunity to practice one's pacing and comfortableness reading in front of others, but also serves as an effective revision strategy. Writers not only learn what doesn't sound right in their draft, they also see their relationship to the writing and their personality reflected in the reading process. Some people have the tendency to become animated and speak with gestures while reading aloud, some revise as they read, and some don't stop long enough for a breath. The collaborative nature of Inklings workshops allows writers to practice reading their own work, whether it is a first draft or a final version, out loud not just as a means of proofreading, but as an informal performance.

It is an honor to share the work of creative, attentive, and dedicated writers. The pieces in this magazine are the result of our spring semester's work. Included in this issue are poems, personal essays, short stories, and selections from longer pieces. The extended edition of this issue is available on our blog, [wed.colby.edu/inklingsmagazine](http://wed.colby.edu/inklingsmagazine).

We'd like to thank those who helped with *Inklings* throughout the spring semester. Specifically, thank you to our advisor Debra Spark, Colby's Creative Writing Department, Student Government Association, and Colby Libraries and Digital Collections. Thank you to Lewis Robinson for sharing thoughtful advice in an interview. Finally, thank you to those who participated in our weekly workshops and contributed to the magazine this semester. Happy Reading!

Catherine Kapples