

Excerpted from closing paragraphs of *Reimagining Writing Assessment: From Scales to Stories* by Maja Wilson, Heinemann, 2018.

It seems stupidly simple when I say it: teaching and writing and assessment are all about people who live and work together who try to understand and help each other. In a society that strives to practice democracy, inclusion and equity, this should have nothing to do with control or alienation, or the dismissal of experience. It should have nothing to do with winners and losers.

It's just you, a human being who is also a teacher and a reader, who is someone's child, someone's friend, someone's neighbor, and perhaps someone's parent, now or in the future. And within and between us is language. Will we be open to the experience? To each other?

Regie Routman and Gail Boushey, "Nurturing Writers with Equity in Mind", August 2020