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## Field Notes

Jerome C. Harste





Once a professor of literacy (at IU from 1971 to 2005) “Fieldnotes” reflects my on-going interests in literacy as well as art. “Fieldnotes” is what I call a 5-minute painting. I saw an image. Dipped my brush in black gesso and painted the figure negatively. To finish, I threw opaque watercolor on it and presto, declared it, “Done.” Paintings like this rarely happen. My typical painting takes me the same time it took me to co-author a book—5 years! Even in retirement one has “good days” and “typical days.”

Jerome C. Harste is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Culture, Literacy, and Language Education at Indiana University. Prior to his retirement in 2006 he served as president of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Reading Conference (now the Literacy Research Association), The National Conference on Research in Language & Literacy, and the Whole Language Umbrella. Since retiring from IU, he has had time to develop his artistic skills. His watercolors have been featured on book covers and in Language Arts, JoLLE, California English, and have been juried into several national watercolor exhibits. He holds “Signature Status” in the Bloomington Watercolor Society and the Missouri Watercolor Society and can be reached at [harste@indiana.edu](mailto:harste@indiana.edu).