

ROOTS IN THE SAWDUST:

WRITING TO LEARN ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES



ANNE RUGGLES GERE, EDITOR

Roots in the Sawdust

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Writing to Learn across the Disciplines

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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