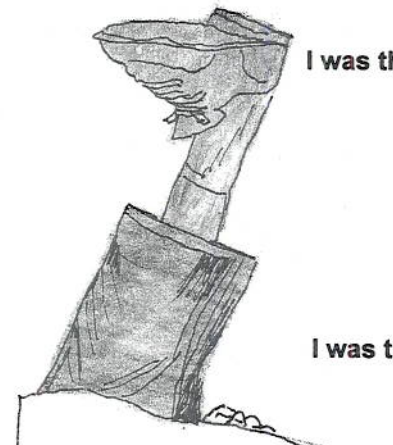


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## YOUNG AUTHORS

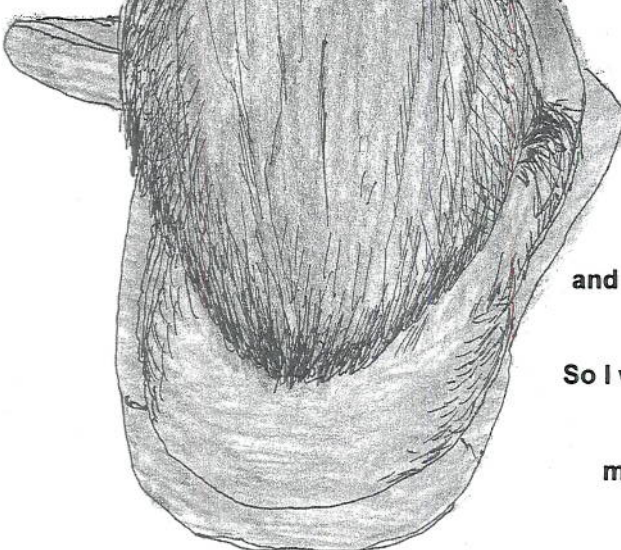
I was thinking about how you all came to be here,  
about what you all had done,  
of how you had accepted some responsibility,  
about how you, above anyone else, had won,  
had prevailed, I mean, over the internal battles  
that all writers face,  
and how you had confronted the self-discipline of writing  
that all writers chase.



I was thinking about how you all shared so many things in common:  
the pencil and the pen,  
the scraps of paper, the notebook,  
the excitement when  
you journey  
across blank pages,  
traveling and adventuring  
through writing stages.



I was thinking of the exhilaration of when that idea first strikes you,  
and of when you write it down,  
making it permanent  
on almost anything around,  
a half-used napkin,  
a piece of misplaced wood,  
or even an old candy wrapper  
is sometimes good.



But the important idea is  
that you captured notions,  
that you all wrote them down  
and wrapped them in your emotions,  
while, all the time mixing and matching  
story elements and the written word  
with the life stories  
that you've lived, read, or heard,  
and you built them up and up  
as all writers do,  
and shared your discoveries with the outside world  
and with other writers like you.

So I was thinking about how you all came to be here,  
about that one reason I might cite,  
and you know that you are all here today,  
marked forever as authors, because you write.

Sigmund A. Boloz

## WHAT CAME FIRST?

There is no writing  
without reading.  
There is no reading  
without writing.

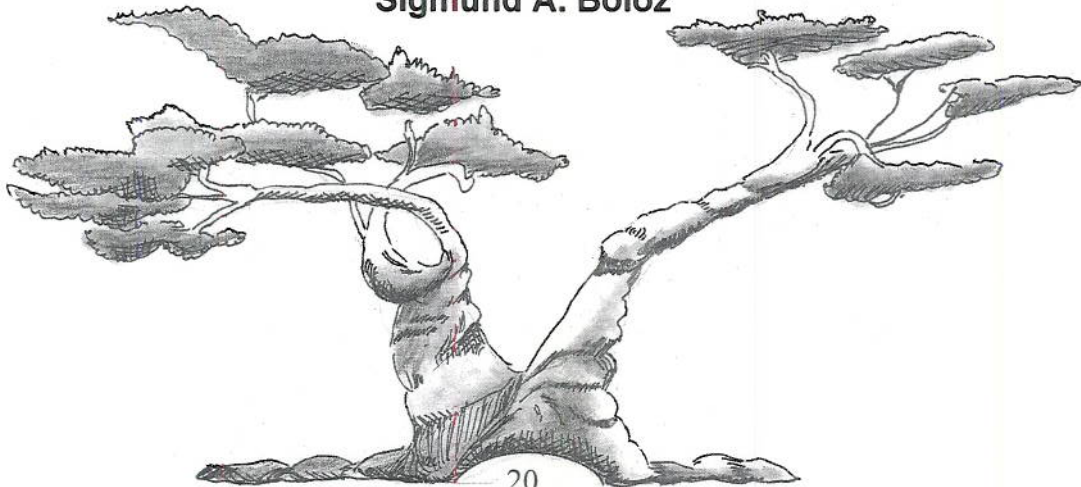
What came first  
the chicken or the eggs which we are fed?  
What came first  
the words on paper or the words which are read?

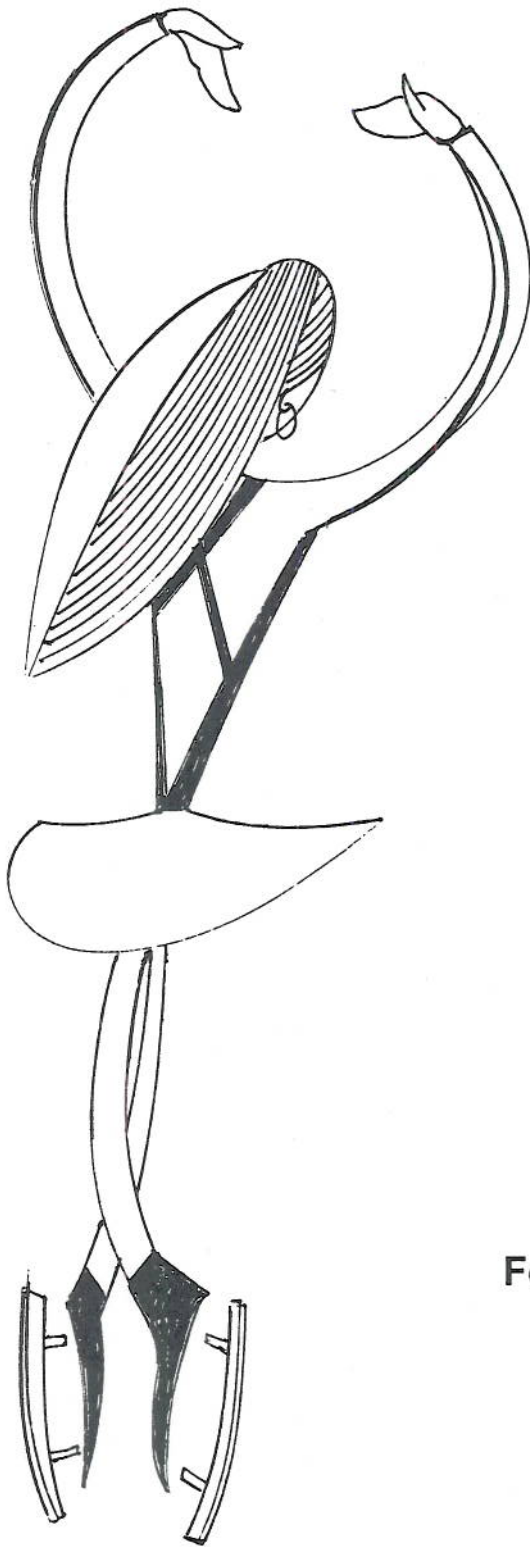
The power of reading,  
As well as the writers' lives, you see,  
Renew one to the other's life blood  
Through a power called literacy.

For there is no need for writing  
That fails to respect a reader's dignity,  
And the beauty of the words on paper  
Lies in their reciprocity.

So, what came first  
the chicken or the eggs which we are fed?  
What came first  
the words on paper or the words which are read?

Sigmund A. Boloz





## **YOUR INFLUENCE NEVER STOPS**

**Everything is interconnected,  
Every single thing that we do,  
Nothing stops with just one person,  
It keeps on moving through**

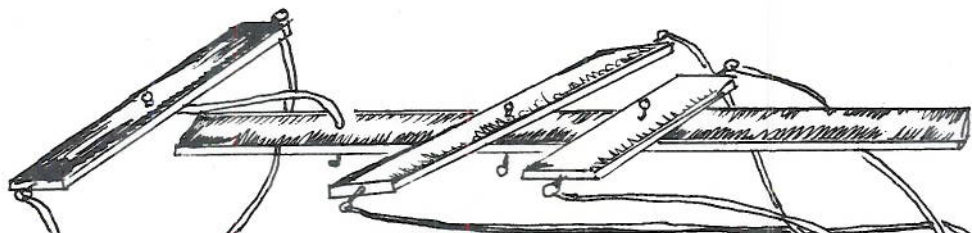
**From the moment of its beginning,  
It continues to go beyond,  
Looping in every direction  
Like the ripples of a pond,**

**Reaching out to touch others,  
To reverberate about,  
And like the strongest of echoes  
Only slowly fading out**

**After beginning other connections,  
Touching many others as well,  
And where its influence will stop  
No one ever can truly tell.**

**So, imagine the consequences  
Of every single thing that you start,  
For those things will eventually circle back  
And make you a continued part.**

**Sigmund A. Boloz**



**CHOICES SOMETIMES CHOOSE YOU**

**Sometimes you must venture out into the darkness  
To find the elusive light.**

**Sometimes you must step into the unknown  
In order to improve your sight.**

**Sometimes you must follow your strongest instincts,  
Call it blind faith if you must.**

**Sometimes you must travel toward the unknown horizon  
Or to at least empower others with your trust.**

**Sometimes you must just start climbing  
To discover what can be found.**

**Sometimes you must just make your way  
As you fumble around.**

**Sometimes you must jump in with both feet,  
Allowing for opportunities along the way.**

**Sometimes you must simply seize the moment  
Whatever might come your way.**

**And sometimes the only way of knowing  
Is to wade into an unknown place**

**And grasp onto the best alternative  
Before it slaps you in your face.**

**Yes, sometimes you must venture out into the darkness  
To find the elusive light.**

**Sometimes you must step into the unknown  
In order to improve your sight.**

**Sigmund A. Boloz**

