

About the Authors



Shirley Russak Wachtel is the author of *The Addison Wesley Longman Interactive Guide to Newsweek* (Longman Publishers, 1999), a supplementary guide for college students. Her book *The Story of Blima—A Holocaust Survivor* (Townsend Press, 2005) recounts the true story of her mother and is taught in classrooms throughout the nation. For her efforts, she has been recognized by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. She is also the author of five children's books, *What Would I Be? The Eight Days of Hanukkah*, *Charlie Wonder—Chef-Detective*, *Brad Sureshot—Coach-Detective*, *Howie Rocket—World Traveler-Detective*; and a book of poetry, *In The Mellow Light* (2009). Her poems and short stories have been featured in *Middlesex, A Literary Journal*. Dr. Wachtel received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Brooklyn College, and a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from Long Island University. She earned a Doctor of Letters degree from Drew University. For the past twenty years, she has taught developmental reading and writing, freshman composition, and creative writing at Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey, where she has created several innovative combined reading/writing lessons. In 2006, Dr. Wachtel was awarded the Innovative Teaching Award presented by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges in conjunction with the *New York Times*. The award was given for the best use of the *New York Times* in a classroom nationwide. Dr. Wachtel is also a frequent presenter at professional conferences throughout New Jersey.



Helena Swanicke earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary/Special Education from Rutgers College, Rutgers University, a Master of Arts degree in Reading Instruction from Concordia University, and a Master of Letters from Drew University. She is a certified reading specialist and has taught at the elementary, junior high, and community-college levels. For the past eighteen years, she has taught developmental reading and writing at Middlesex County College, Edison, New Jersey. Her creative works are published at Drew University. She has also been a presenter at college workshops and professional conferences.