

## **February 2010: NAHS and NAMS Students' Poetry**

### Poet Laureate Teaches at North Andover High School

Gayle C. Heney, Poet Laureate of North Andover, was invited to teach poetry at North Andover High School on February 3 – 4, 2010. Ms. Mary Paradise and her Creative Writing Class, and Ms. Mary Gregoire and both her 11<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English Class and Advanced Placement English Class were encouraged to respond to prompts and exercises with poetry. The students shared their poetry with their classmates and in some instances, acted out in groups what they had created. Some of the poems centered on looking into the future, others described feelings of entrapment, loss or possibility. Still others created vistas filled with caravans, majesty, ancient trees, the setting sun, and a boardwalk pointing into the unknown.

“The students were imaginative, and open to experimentation. I was delighted with their candor and willingness to share their thoughts with their classmates,” said Gayle Heney. Students were encouraged to submit their poems to the Poet Laureate for submission to the Town of North Andover’s webpage. Several did so, and can be found as additional links under this heading.

A North Andover Middle School pupil sent the unsolicited poem entitled, *The Magic Apple* to Gayle Heney. Ms. Heney was very pleased with the student’s effort. It appears below as well.

Gayle Heney encourages all to, “Enjoy this opportunity to read and possibly even feel what’s in our youth’s consciousness at this place in time.”