# Table of Contents

**Prologue**  
Possibilities by Linda Pastan  

## Creating Context  
"They Have to Take You In" · Concept Vocabulary

## Cluster One  
What Is a Family?

**Thinking Skill**  
**Defining**

- Thanksgiving in Polynesia  
  Susan Haven · short story  
  14

- I Am Singing Now  
  Luci Tapahonso · poem  
  24

- Nativity  
  Gary Paulsen · personal narrative  
  26

- Gang Girl  
  Isis Sapp-Grant as told to  
  Rosemarie Robotham · article  
  34

**Responding to Cluster One**

**Writing Activity**  
**Defining a Family**  
  44

## Cluster Two  
How Are We Influenced by Family?

**Thinking Skill**  
**Comparing and Contrasting**

- The Charmer  
  Budge Wilson · short story  
  46

- Keeping Hair  
  Ramona Wilson · poem  
  55
Lectures on How You Never Lived Back Home
M. Evelina Galang  short story  56

Birth-Order Blues
Paula Lynn Parks  article  61

Third Child
Erma Bombeck  humor column  64

Growing Up
Gary Soto  short story  66

Responding to Cluster Two
Writing Activity   BIRTH ORDER—DOES IT DESCRIPTION YOU?  76

Cluster Three   How Do Families Deal with Problems?  77
Thinking Skill   EVALUATING

Somebody’s Son
Richard Pin dell  short story  78

After the Divorce
Jewel Kilcher  poem  84

Gillian, Age Thirteen
As told to Jill Krementz  personal narrative  86

Getting the Facts of Life
Paulette Childress White  short story  91

Nikki-Rosa
Nikki Giovanni  poem  102

Phoenix Farm
Jane Yolen  short story  104

Responding to Cluster Three
Writing Activity   EVALUATING FAMILY PROBLEMS  110
CLUSTER FOUR  Thinking on Your Own

Thinking Skill  SYNTHESIZING

Clear Glass Marbles
Jane Martin  dramatic monologue  112

Trust Me
Frederick Waterman  short story  116

Father and Son
William Stafford  poem  126

Dancer
Vickie Sears  short story  128

As It Is with Strangers
Susan Beth Pfeffer  short story  132

Responding to Cluster Four  141

Close Reading  142
Using Textual Evidence  149
Comparing Texts  151
Author Biographies  154