

VISIONS

A Thematic Anthology

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Preface

VISIONS: A Thematic Anthology is a collection of multicultural readings from a wide variety of sources on different topics for different purposes. The rationale behind the choice of readings is that the process of thinking can be learnt by interacting with creative texts, and readers can develop their thinking ability, while simultaneously enhancing their reading and writing skills. Education to a large extent implies inculcating in the students the capacity to think clearly and logically about important ideas, issues, and problems, and develop a holistic as well as an analytical approach as the situation demands. The texts are chosen according to the discourse communities associated with different academic disciplines. The selected texts provide examples of effective writing in different disciplines and readers can see and learn how skilled writers use language to achieve their purposes. Secondly, they allow the readers an opportunity to practice close, critical reading. Third, the study of the selected texts stimulate the readers to reflect on their own experiences and think about how they can use the readings to use them in their own writings. Last but not least, interactions with texts written by professional writers help readers discover what makes for good writing and become good writers.

The selected texts are grouped under six headings:

- I. Culture and Society
- II. Money and Management
- III. Science and Environment
- IV. Gender and Women
- V. Life, Death, and Beyond
- VI. Art and Philosophy

As the headings indicate, the topics are of general human interest.

Each text in the anthology is preceded by a short background information on the writer and the text. The text is followed by a

Glossary which provides a guide to the meanings of particular words and references. There are three types of exercises in the book: *Understanding*, *Rhetoric/Language/Writing*, and *Discussion*. The exercises in *Understanding* are mostly to see whether the reader has been able to comprehend the main points about the text. In *Rhetoric/Language/Writing*, exercises are developed regarding the strategies used by the writers and their use of language in the text. It also contains exercises that prompt the readers to produce their own compositions. *Discussion* questions basically attempt to assess and challenge how well the readers can connect the text with ideas beyond the text in the real world. The list of *Useful Terms* at the end of the book provides a handy reference to a few technical terms used in the exercises.

My greatest debt of gratitude is to the authors of the selected pieces and I would like to take this opportunity to register my deepest appreciation to them. I am also very grateful to my friends and colleagues Professors Padma Devkota and Hriseekesh Upadhyay for advice and much-needed support. I would be grateful for any suggestions for improvement from the readers.

SL



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