"English teachers always seemed to try to cram a whole year of grammar into two weeks."

"Mrs. Perka tried to 'create the mood' when we read Shakespeare by pulling down the shades and turning down the lights."

"English was an exciting course because it allowed diversity in structure — no two teachers taught it alike."

Infinite lists of vocabulary words, finishing novels in homeroom, and constant conniving to change due-dates typified English. We've all stayed up long after the rest of the house fell silently asleep writing essays, crammed panic-stricken the

minute before a forgotten vocabulary test, cringed when grammar was assigned, and searched for *Monarch Notes* to help us understand the books we had to read.

Along with providing some very important skills, English was a class in which we could express and exchange feelings and ideas through class discussions and essays. English was more than just vocabulary and grammar and literature. It was the nurturing of our individual creativities, thoughts, and ideas, and it was finding out about ourselves.

## English

