Middle school youngsters are eager, enthusiastic, inquisitive, often boisterous. They are also, at times, moody, awkward, and insecure. They are experiencing the contradictory pleasures and pains of a period of intense physical and intellectual development. No longer children, not yet adults, they are explorers in a challenging new world. Our task as educators must be to design a program to meet the special needs of this age group—and to nourish their budding enthusiasms.
