APPENDIX A: THE TEACHER AS . . .

The Teacher As . . .

This is a book about different approaches to teaching. In it we want to stimulate you to think about some basic ways to conceive of the role of the teacher. We believe that how you approach your teaching will have a great effect on what you do as a teacher. To help you see what we mean, consider some of the analogies often used to characterize teaching and try to imagine what you might do as a teacher if you believed them literally. No one takes them literally, of course, but if you did, you might approach teaching in very different ways. Think about the teacher as:

*Gardener*: Tending to the development and nurturance of young growing things. Imagine an art lesson using this approach.

*Potter*: Shaping formless clay into useful objects. Imagine the same art lesson. Would using this approach make it different?

*Midwife*: Assisting in the birth of ideas and knowledge. Imagine a math lesson using this approach.

*Provisoner*: Providing a store of knowledge and skills needed for the journey of life. Imagine the same math lesson based on this perspective.

You might want to stop here and sketch out your ideas of what these different approaches to teaching might be like in these lessons before going on to see how we imagined them.