

10-1-1978

## Game Books for Reading Instruction

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### Recommended Citation

Hopkins, C. J., & Moe, A. J. (1978). Game Books for Reading Instruction. *Reading Horizons*, 19 (1). Retrieved from [https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading\\_horizons/vol19/iss1/11](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons/vol19/iss1/11)

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# GAME BOOKS FOR READING INSTRUCTION

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Books which contain directions on how to construct and use games for reading skill development are popular with teachers because they contain practical suggestions for classroom activities. There are matters related to the selection and purchase of such books with which the teacher should be familiar; those matters are discussed here.

There is enough variety in reading game books to satisfy many specific instructional objectives while using a number of different formats. One area in which game books differ is that some contain activities for many curriculum areas such as reading, math, social studies, science, and health while others deal exclusively with reading activities. Another noticeable difference is that some game books contain written descriptions of games whereas others contain actual patterns for game boards which the teacher may use as presented. There are also differences in the audiences the activities are designed to reach. Many books include themes which will be of interest to young children while other books are designed to encourage older children to develop more elaborate game-playing strategies.

The organization of activities also differs from book to book. Games may be arranged by skills to be developed, such as word recognition, comprehension, and vocabulary, or they may be arranged according to grade level. The range of grade levels or reading levels covered differs from one book to another, although the most common grade level distinction separates primary and intermediate grade activities.

A final area in which the content of game books differs is that some include suggestions for game management programs which the teachers may find useful as they try to decide when and how to implement games in the classroom.

With all of the differences in game books, how should teachers decide which books to buy? First, it is important that they consider how appropriate the activities in any book are in relation to students' abilities and interests. Second, they should check carefully to judge how complete the directions are for constructing and using the games described. Third, teachers should try to estimate the amount of time and materials needed to complete a game. Some games require an inordinate amount of time to construct and very little time to play.

It is apparent that one could spend a great deal of time and money trying to order all the books available. The authors suggest that you examine several books and decide which one or ones are most suited to your needs.

The following compilation of books is offered for those who desire information on the use and construction of reading games:

- Allen, Roach Van and Claryce Allen. *Language Experience Activities*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1976.
- Ashley, Rosalind. *Successful Techniques for Teaching Elementary Language Arts*. West Nyack, N.Y.: Parker Publishing Co., 1970.
- Bergman, Floyd. *The English Teacher's Activities Handbook*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1976.
- Burie, Audrey and Mary Ann Heltshe. *Reading with a Smile: 90 Reading Games that Work*. Washington, D.C.: Acropolis Books, 1975.
- Carson, Patti and Janet Dellosa. *Stick Out Your Neck . . . Try Learning Activities*. Akron, Ohio: 760 Elma Avenue, 1976.
- Cox, Diane and Cynthia N. Peck. *Reading Games in the Classroom*. Highland Park, N.Y.: Dreier Educational Systems, 1977.
- Cram, Dorothy E. *Games for Special Days*. Dansville, N.Y.: Instructor Publications, 1974.
- Cratty, Bryant S. *Active Learning: Games to Enhance Academic Abilities*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1971.
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- Dorsey, Mary. *Reading Games and Activities*. Belmont, California: Lear Siegler, Inc./Fearon Publishers, 1972.
- Ekwall, Eldon E. *Locating and Correcting Reading Difficulties*, Second Edition. Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill, 1977.
- Forte, Imogene and Joy MacKenzie. *Kids' Stuff: Reading and Language Experiences Primary Level*. Nashville: Incentive Publications, 1974.
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- Greff, Kasper and Eunice Askov. *Learning Centers: An Ideabook for Reading and Language Arts*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt, 1974.
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- Herr, Selma. *Learning Activities for Reading*, Third Edition. Dubuque: Wm. C. Brown, 1977.
- Kaplan, Sandra, et al. *Change for Children*. Pacific Palisades, California: Goodyear Publishing Co., 1973.
- Keith, Joy L. *Comprehension Joy*. Naperville, Illinois: P.O. Box 404, 1976.
- Keith, Joy L. *Readiness Joy*. Naperville, Illinois: P.O. Box 404, 1975.
- Keith, Joy L. *Word Attack Joy*. Naperville, Illinois: P.O. Box 404, 1977.
- Linn, Helen and Dorothy Gutzler. *110 Reading Comprehension Activities*. Dansville, N.Y.: Instructor Publications, 1976.

- Lorton, Mary. *Workjobs*. Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley, 1972.
- Love, Marla. *20 Reading Comprehension Games*. Belmont, California: Fearon Publishers, Inc., 1977.
- Mallett, Jerry J. *Classroom Reading Games Activity Kit*. New York: Center for Applied Research in Education, Inc., 1975.
- Mallett, Jerry J. *101 Make-and-Play Reading Games for the Intermediate Grades*. West Nyack, N.Y.: Center for Applied Research in Education, Inc., 1976.
- Moore, Elaine and Jerri Greenlee. *Ideas for Learning Centers*. Belmont, California: Fearon Publishers, 1974.
- Mulac, Margaret. *Educational Games for Fun*. New York: Harper and Row, 1971.
- Paige, Rae. *Easy Reader's Activity Book 1*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1977.
- Paige, Rae. *Easy Reader's Activity Book 2*. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1977.
- Pearson, Graig and Joseph Marfuggi. *Creating and Using Learning Games*. Palo Alto, California: Education Today Co., 1975.
- Piercey, Dorothy. *Reading Activities in Content Areas*, Abridged Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1976.
- Platts, Mary E. *Anchor*. Stevensville, Michigan: Educational Service, Inc., 1970.
- Platts, Mary E. *Launch*. Stevensville, Michigan: Educational Service, Inc., 1972.
- Platts, Mary E. *Spice*. Stevensville, Michigan: Educational Service, Inc., 1973.
- Russell, David H. *Reading Aids Through the Grades: A Guide to Materials and 440 Activities for Individualized Reading Instruction*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1975.
- Saludis, Anthony J. *Language Arts Activities*, Second Edition. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 1977.
- Schaff, Joanne. *The Language Arts Idea Book: Classroom Activities for Children*. Pacific Palisades, California: Goodyear Publishing Co., 1976.
- Schubert, Delwyn. *Reading Games that Teach*. Monterey Park, California: Creative Teaching Press, Inc., 1969.
- Spache, Evelyn B. *Reading Activities for Child Involvement*, Second Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1976.
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- Weber, Elaine and Janet Chappa. *Games that Teach Within Your Reach*. East Lansing, Michigan: Spring Publishing, 1975.
- Ylisto, Ingrid and Irene Allen. *Kollection of Kues from Kids*. Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt, 1975.
- Zavatsky, Bill and Ron Padgett. *The Whole World Catalogue 2*. New York: McGraw-Hill Paperbacks, 1977.