

7-1-1979

The Real Energy Shortage

Ken VanderMeulen
Western Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons



Part of the Education Commons

Recommended Citation

VanderMeulen, K. (1979). The Real Energy Shortage. *Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts*, 19 (4). Retrieved from https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons/vol19/iss4/1

This Editor's Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Education and Literacy Studies at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



THE REAL ENERGY SHORTAGE

Probably no greater facility for raising the level of a society exists than the public library, where information and vicarious experience which can lead to personal knowledge and wisdom are readily available to all. But observable in terms of national trends, we have turned to commercial entertainment during our leisure hours. As a result, now that energy for gratifying our entertainment needs has begun to dwindle, people can't seem to think of anything to do except whine and quibble.

As teachers of reading, we ought to be taking advantage of this occasion, letting everyone in on what amounts to a rediscovery of the great life. We should be shouting with fervor about the thousands of excellent volumes in our libraries, each volume a means of turning the energy shortage into personal profit. By becoming readers, we will find ways to avoid further difficulty over the shortages, the inflation, the international bickering, and even our individual disappointments in job, family, and uncooperative weather.

As reading teachers, we must talk to students young and old about the wonders of our libraries throughout our country. One doesn't have to have anything more than the energy to go to the library, to have all the doors of education opened. What we may lack in reading background can be overcome in a short period of looking through basic materials. It is a genuine mystery that every library is not constantly crowded with people taking advantage of the shelves full of mind building, interesting stories and factual materials. Can it be that we as a people have lost our curiosity and our will to grow in intellect and wisdom? Very few people have the desire to conquer worlds, but everyone should have the initiative required to improve oneself.

Perhaps it will take an upheaval the size of a major depression before we become aware of the riches that exist for the taking, right inside the doors of the local library. The marvelous phenomenon is that one doesn't have to be an important somebody to utilize the knowledge that is carefully arranged in row-upon-row of stacked information.

Do you have a little problem with questions about the way your mind is running? Study the basics of the wonderful world of psychology. Begin with the easy-to-read books, work up at your own pace, and find answers to your questions with bonus information that no one can tax or price-gouge you for. Want to travel in a foreign country? It is easy, through books. In fact, real mobility in time and space and culture are possible *only* through books. Through modern technology, the best lectures are available on microfiche readers to the serious scholars. Basic courses in reading improvement are also available, to those whose schooling was not completed. There is almost no place more suited to helping a person grow than one's own local library.

Ken VanderMeulen
Editor