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## New Materials

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# NEW MATERIALS

*Sandra Ahern*

READING CONSULTANT, COMSTOCK, MICHIGAN

*You're Somebody Special on a Horse* by Fern G. Brown and illustrated by Frank Murphy. Published by Albert Whitman Company, 560 W. Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60606, 1977, 128 pps., Grades 4-8 and Remedial.

This is more than a horse story and whether you are a horse lover or not, there is a very special appeal for all young readers.

Marni loved horses! But her parents thought she was spending too much time with her horse and not enough time on her schoolwork. They felt she should give up her horse unless her studies improved.

In the middle of her dilemma, Marni becomes involved in a new program designed to teach handicapped children how to ride horses. Through sharing her love for horses with these children, Marni learns many new joys and values.

*Witching Time* an Anthology by Lee Bennett Hopkins and illustrated by Vera Rosenberry. Published by Albert Whitman and Company, 1977, 128 pps., Grades 3-6 and Ages 8-11.

Mr. Hopkins has put together another delightful anthology of ghost stories and poems. And as before, witches and other friendly spirits are sparkling with humor and mischief, shivery, but not sinister.

The stories vary in length; some are easier reading and others provide reading of a higher level. Although some of the tales might not be bedtime stories, many are perfect for reading aloud.

Story-tellers include Rowena Bennett, Aileen Fisher, Gunhild Paehr, and Lee Wyndham.

*My Mom Hates Me in January* by Judy Delton and illustrated by John Faulkner. Published by Albert Whitman and Company, 1977, 32 pps., Grades 1-3 and Ages 6-8.

This little picture/story book points out that parents are not perfect and have a right to feel anger and depression and impatience like anyone else. These feelings seem to come to play in the month of January as little Lee Henry finds out. During the month, Lee is sure his mother hates him for he can not seem to do anything right in his mother's eyes.

Then he realizes that perhaps it is not him, but the winter blues

that are making his mother so cranky. This is an exaggerated observation for a small boy to make, but the book may help other children realize that even parents have moods. And these moods do not last forever.

*Lentil Soup* written and illustrated by Joe Lasker. Published by Albert Whitman and Company, 1977, 32 pps., Grades K-3 and Ages 5-8.

A beautifully illustrated full-color picture book which depicts situations and settings between a farming couple in America in the early 1800's.

The book presents the use of cardinal and ordinary numbers from 1 through 7 and the names of days of the week as part of the story.

*Reading for Concepts*, second edition, by William Liddle. Published by Webster Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1977.

*Reading for Concepts* is a nonconsumable reading program of a series of softbound books designed to develop and strengthen a multitude of reading skills. The authors have developed a three-way attack on reading deficiencies: (1) by presenting selections with catchy titles, with relevant up-to-date information, and with detailed illustrations that will be a motivating force; (2) by teaching basic reading-comprehension skills in "a repeating pattern of no-fail exercises" which make the main idea, details, inferences, context clues, and vocabulary within the grasp of the slow reader; (3) by giving short selections with a controlled reading level and making it possible to place a student at a comfortable, workable level.

The reading selections are put on a two-page lesson. Part of each lesson is a set of follow-up questions with each question designed to test certain reading skills. Each testing page faces the related reading selection. The question types are repeated throughout the levels of the series. The tests teach increasingly difficult skills as the students progress through the levels.

The Spache readability formula was used to analyze the word difficulty in Books A-D. The Dale-Chall readability formula and the Dale list of 3,000 familiar words were used for Books E-H. The average readability levels for the series range from Book A-Low second grade to Book H-Low sixth grade. The vocabulary is held below the level indicated and each text has a page-by-page list of special words which may cause the reader difficulty at the level of the text.

The Guide for Teachers has a wealth of information as to what each level contains and the skills taught in each book, reports of test findings, aims and purposes, and basic teaching methods for the program. It also has an informal inventory for pupil placement in

the readings. In the back of the Guide can be found the Combined Answer Key for the program.

Although the series is designed for pupils who need to catch up (average and below average groups), there is much flexibility in the program and it could be used with many elementary and secondary groups.

*Reading for Concepts* would be a valuable tool for the classroom teacher looking for new material to help children in a specific and concrete way in overcoming mistakes and developing basic study/reading skills which are so essential for success.

*The Whole Kids Catalog* created by Peter Cardozo and designed by Ted Menten. Published by Bantam Books, Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10019. 1975. 218 pps.

This is a wonderful source book that will enable the child or adult to learn to make or build hundreds of exciting things. Instructions are given on how to make just about anything from a tree house to creating sandcastles . . . and you are learning through fun experiences.

The book can also be called an activity book because it is full of things one can actually do or make, like making a robot out of spools or turning an egg carton into a silly sea serpent.

It is also a guide book to free samples, posters, pictures, books, recipes, coins, and many other items you can write away for.