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## New Materials

Sandra Ahern  
*Comstock, Michigan*

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# NEW MATERIALS

**Sandra Ahern**

READING CONSULTANT, COMSTOCK, MICHIGAN

*Steck-Vaughn Adult Reading: A Sequential Program* by Sam V. Dautat, Jo Ann Dautat, Wayne Otto, and Burton W. Kreitlow. Published by Steck-Vaughn Company, 1977, Austin, Texas.

*The Steck-Vaughn Adult Reading* is an individualized sequential program of basic reading skills intended to guide the adult student from complete illiteracy to advanced comprehension skills.

The program consists basically of two levels: phonics/word attack and comprehension skill development with instructional materials consisting of fifteen skill books and a teacher's guide. The guide contains the Program Placement Inventory making it possible to correctly place students in the program and measure the progress of skill mastery.

This excellent program enables adults to increase reading skills, gain general knowledge about occupations, consumer economics, law, health, and build a very functional vocabulary.

There are several features that make this program ideal as part of an adult reading program: (1) the diagnostic/prescriptive feature insures that the student is working only on skills not yet mastered; (2) it provides a wide range of adequate materials; and (3) the program provides individualized meaningful experiences for the mature learner.

*Blue Network TUNE-IN Listening & Literature Skills through the Magic of Old-Time Music* created by Sherwin S. Glassner—written by Robert M. Oksner. Published by Sunburst Communications, Inc., 1976, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

The *TUNE-IN* program is designed to develop listening skills and to also develop skills in literature, creative expression, and writing through the use of old-time radio programs taped on four 30-minute cassettes.

The program consists of three main components: (1) the radio shows—four half-hour shows in cassette form taped the exact way they were originally recorded—*Escape: The Abominable Snowman* (1954), *The Lone Ranger: The Iron Horse* (1950), *My Friend Irma* (1952), and *The Shadow: Death Speaks Twice* (1942); the teacher's guide that gives background information and a synopsis of each story and follow-up activities; and (3) six spirit masters for each show that question the student's understanding of the tape's plot, character, setting, point of view, theme, mood, climax. There are also masters that provide practice in vocabulary and comprehension development.

The development of listening skills is often neglected because we assume that children will acquire these skills naturally. The truth is that children need to be provided with practice in order to learn good

listening skills and *TUNE-IN* has activities that can provide this practice in an interesting and fun way.

*Critical Thinking* by Anita Harnadek. Published by Midwest Publication Co., Inc., 1976, P.O. Box 129, Troy, MI 48099.

Reading level—5/6 grade

Interest level—Jr. and Sr. High

*Critical Thinking* is designed to teach students to think critically by learning how to ask and answer many excellent questions. The purpose of the eleven booklets is to “sharpen thinking skills using class discussion and/or individual student written responses.”

The booklet themes include: *Critical Thinking, Analogies, Antonyms, Synonyms, Similarities and Differences, True to Life, or Fantasy?* and there are sets of duplicating masters to accompany the series.

The series seems to be very thorough in its approach to teaching students to think carefully and independently when answering thought-provoking questions.

*Newbery Award Sound Filmstrips* by Miller-Brody Productions, Inc., Audio-Visual Instructional Programs, 342 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

Miller-Brody has released eleven new Newbery Award Sound Film strips based on the Newbery Medal and Honor Books. They are:

- NSF 3050 *The Black Pearl* by Scott O'Dell
- NSF 3029 *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare
- NSF 3077 *Chucaro: Wild Pony of the Pampa* by Francis Kalnay
- NSF 3003 *Ginger Pye* by Eleanor Estes
- NSF 3047 *The Golden Goblet* by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
- NSF 3086 *Hurry Home, Candy* by Eleanor Estes
- NSF 3046 *The Loner* by Ester Wier
- NSF 3043 *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry
- NSF 3072 *The Noonday Friends* by Mary Stolz
- NSF 3078 *The Planet of Junior Brown* by Virginia Hamilton
- NSF 3075 *A Wind in the Door* by Madeleine L'Engle

*The Story of the Grateful Crane* by Jennifer Bartoli—Full Color Dioramas by Kozo Simizu. Published by Albert Whitman & Company—560 W. Lake Street—Chicago, IL 60606, 1977.

Ages 6-up

Grades 1-up

This is a beautifully illustrated Japanese folktale about a magical crane who repays the kindness of an old childless couple in a mysterious way.

*Mine, Yours, Ours* by Burton Albert, Jr.—Illustrated by Lois Axeman.

Published by Albert Whitman & Company—560 W. Lake Street—Chicago, IL 60606, 1977.

Ages 4-6

Grades—Preschool-1

A very interesting little *Self-Starter Book* that teaches the concepts of owning and sharing through pictures and the three words: mine, yours, and ours.

*Monsters, Ghoulies, and Creepy Creatures* An Anthology by Lee Bennett Hopkins—Illustrated by Vera Rosenberry. Published by Albert Whitman & Company—560 W. Lake Street—Chicago, IL 60606, 1977.

Ages 8-11

Grades 3-6

This is the third book in a trilogy by Lee Bennett Hopkins and as before, it is packed full of scary and fascinating stories of ghouls and other creatures.

*Tell Them My Name is Amanda* by Jo Anne Wold—Illustrated by Dennis Hockerman. Published by Albert Whitman & Company—560 W. Lake Street—Chicago, IL 60606, 1977.

Ages 5-8

Grades K-3

The Whitman Company has published another valuable *Concept Book*. In this story a little girl finds ways to overcome her shyness and finds her first taste of self-confidence.

*The Pelican Mystery* by Ruth Hooker and Carole Smith—Illustrated by George Armstrong. Published by Albert Whitman & Company—560 W. Lake Street—Chicago, IL 60606, 1977.

Ages 8-12

Grades 3-7

Patti and Grant Henderson leave for a vacation to the Florida Keys and have an adventure they will never forget as they try to unravel a strange mystery.

*The CB Adventures of Neil Hawkins* by Bob Cunningham—Illustrated by Rod and Barbara Furan.

Titles:

*Come on Smokey*

*Range Fire*

*Emergency*

*Alaska Skip*

*For Good Sam*

Published by Crestwood House—P.O. Box 3427—Mankato, MN 56001, 1977.

A new series of high interest, low vocabulary books with a reading level of Grades 4-5 and an interest level of Grades 3 and up.

The stories revolve around the adventure of Neil Hawkins, an outdoor editor for the Cascade City Journal. He writes about fishing, hunting, camping and other outdoor sports. And, of course, about his favorite hobby—CB radios. The stories are very interesting and teach many valuable lessons about human behavior and kindness. Each book has a glossary of all the CB terms.