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## Reading in the Content Areas

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## *Editorial Comment*

### READING IN THE CONTENT AREAS

There is a growing interest throughout the United States in the reading problems encountered by junior and senior high school students as they attempt to read in the various content areas. Unfortunately, most secondary teachers have been given little, if any, instruction or guidance in teaching students how to read effectively in order to master such subjects as mathematics, social studies, science, and literature.

An investigation of the preparation and responsibility of secondary teachers in the field of reading conducted several years ago by the writer revealed that 82 per cent of the teachers, while in college, were taught that reading skills can be improved throughout the active life of most individuals, but less than 10 per cent received any instruction on how to teach reading to high school pupils. Few colleges have accepted the challenge for preparing secondary teachers to meet the reading needs of students.

As a partial solution to this problem, *Reading Horizons* is initiating a new feature, "Reading in the Secondary Schools." The purpose of this column will be to offer concrete guidance and instruction which will aid secondary teachers in assisting their students in the application of reading skills. There will be no attempt to persuade secondary teachers to become reading specialists. The emphasis will be on showing them how to help young adults make more effective use of their textbooks. Our goal is to present practical procedures whereby a subject-matter teacher can help his students to read purposefully, selectively, and flexibly as well as to "think" as they read.

Dorothy J. McGinnis  
Editor