

# *Reading Horizons*

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## Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith\*

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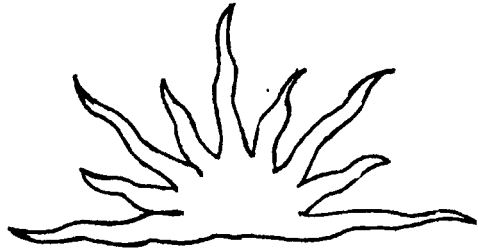
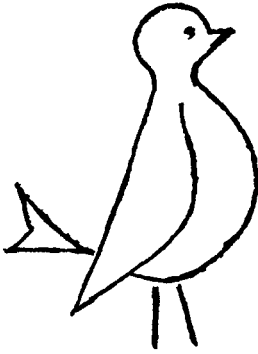
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# Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith

## **Abstract**

Letters to the editor.



## ROUND ROBIN

*Dorothy E. Smith, Editor*

Dear Readers,

What, in your opinion, is the single most important quality a teacher of reading must have? This question was asked of some elementary teachers, and here are their answers.

. . . understanding. She must understand the children themselves and know how to help them to do their best. She must understand the children's varying abilities and how to cope with each. It is important that a teacher fully understands her reading program and how to present it in an interesting, enjoyable, and productive manner.

Ruth Lehmer  
1st grade teacher  
Colon Elementary School  
Colon, Michigan

. . . the ability to help a child meet his needs in the reading program. These needs may not always be reading materials and aids. In some cases encouragement, friendship, praise, a cheerful atmosphere, confidence, and love will contribute to the reading program.

Louise F. Schuster  
3rd grade teacher  
White Pigeon Central  
Elementary School  
White Pigeon, Michigan

. . . the ability to communicate with children. Knowledge of teaching methods is not enough if you cannot apply them to an individual's needs.

Susan Cook

. . . an understanding of children and of their developmental growth. A reading teacher must understand each child that she works with and must take the child from the level he is at and continue to give him the reading experiences that he needs so that he will gain self-confidence in reading.

Lila Munson  
Later Elementary Special  
Education teacher  
Wenzel School  
Sturgis, Michigan

. . . sincere concern and understanding of each child and his background.

Helen Kreitzer  
Primary Room teacher  
Eastside Elementary School  
Constantine, Michigan

. . . in my opinion I think the knowledge of reading is the single most important quality a teacher must have.

Margaret Heshner  
1st grade teacher  
Eastside Elementary School  
Constantine, Michigan

. . . I believe that an understanding of the child's personal feelings about reading itself and his feelings about his abilities to acquire the skills needed for reading is most important. If he has negative feelings, it is imperative that some means of changing these toward the positive be found as soon as possible.

Dorothy J. Berger  
2nd grade teacher  
Three Rivers Public Schools  
Park Community Elementary  
Building  
Moorepark, Michigan

. . . the teacher may know her subject well, have a good understanding of technique, and even know children and their learning process, but without enthusiasm for the task of teaching reading, her efforts will become routine and effective learning will be stifled.

Thelma Struthers  
Kindergarten teacher  
Eastside Elementary School  
Constantine, Michigan

. . . has to be understanding. A teacher must understand that each student is an individual; each student, no matter how small, has feelings that must be considered. A teacher must understand her subject and be able to adjust her plans to the child's needs. Understanding—the basic foundation upon which all teachers need to stand.

Doris Puskas  
1st grade teacher  
H. P. Barrows School  
Three Rivers, Michigan

. . . the ability to understand and get along with the students. By understanding I mean that she knows their reading problems and she starts each child off on his own level. The teacher does not make the students feel they can't succeed even if they have had repeated failures. The reading teacher makes the students feel they can and will succeed because she wants them to and believes in their ability to do so.

Hilda Gose  
3rd grade teacher  
Riverside Elementary School  
Constantine, Michigan

. . . a teacher's attitude can either promote a happy, successful program or produce frustration and a dislike for reading. A teacher must have a love for children, a desire to want to help, fairness, a good understanding, and good rapport that will produce motivation for reading. If you give a feeling of success, you will reap success.

Pauline Lake  
Remedial Reading teacher  
Central Elementary School  
White Pigeon, Michigan

. . . the knowledge of where to obtain the materials needed to help correct the reading problems that have been diagnosed.

Ruth Benwire  
5th grade teacher  
Colon Elementary School  
Colon, Michigan

. . . the ability to make a child feel that what he brings to share with you is as important as that which you can share with him.

Phyllis Winston  
3rd grade teacher  
Colon Elementary School  
Colon, Michigan