

Reading Horizons

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Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith*

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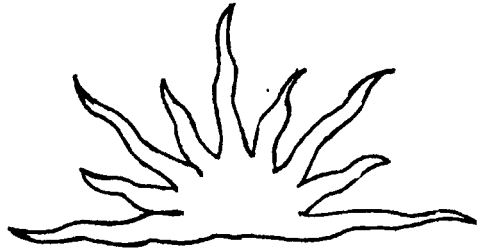
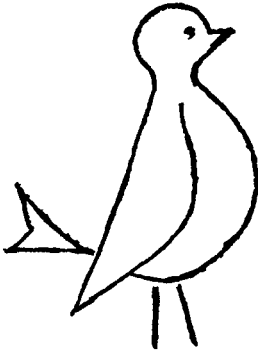
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Round Robin

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