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Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith

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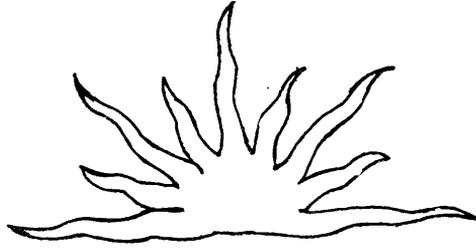
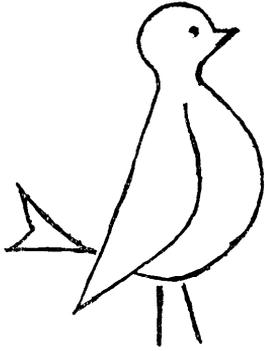


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ROUND ROBIN

Dorothy E. Smith, Editor

As you know, Round Robin is intended as a way-station of ideas among our subscribers. It occurred to us that we all might be the richer for sharing our favorite quotations about reading. A couplet which appears in Jacques Barzun's *TEACHER IN AMERICA* seems eminently quotable:

“The substance of what we think,
Though born in thought, must live in ink.”

Following are the favorite “inky thoughts” of some of our readers: Nila Banton Smith, Distinguished Service Professor at Glassboro State College, Glassboro, New Jersey, sent this:

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress or toil;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!
Emily Dickenson

Dorothy J. McGinnis, Director of the Psycho-Educational Clinic, Western Michigan University, added this:

There are four kinds of readers. The first is like the hour-glass; and their reading being as the sand, it runs in and runs out, and leaves not a vestige behind. A second is like the sponge, which imbibes everything, and returns it in nearly the same state,

only a little dirtier. A third is like a jelly-bag, allowing all that is pure to pass away, and retaining only the refuse and dregs. And the fourth is like the slaves in the diamond mines of Golconda, who, casting aside all that is worthless, retain only pure gems.

—Coleridge

Marylou Hilden, Patterson, California, said, "I do hope this is not too flippant for a scholarly journal. It is, at least, a very true observation, don't you agree?"

"The length of time it takes to clean an attic often is in direct proportion to one's ability to read."

The Modesto Bee, Modesto, California,

October 18, 1965

Uberto Price, Director of Reading Services, Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, North Carolina, gave us:

". . . It is idle for the pupil to read faster than he can think."

—Thorndike

"The world cheats those who cannot read."

—Eighteenth Century Chinese Poet

"It is not our business to train bookworms who would only bore through pulp."

—D. Holbrook

"I did not discover I could not read until after I had left the University."

—Mortimer J. Adler

And then there is a professor of English who shall be nameless and who surely must be apocryphal, who came up with:

"Books are good enough in their way but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life."

—Robert Louis Stevenson

"Of making books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

—Ecclesiastes

Objection, anyone? In our opinion, evocation is the essence of communication. Have we called forth enough images to stimulate a response from you?