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Round Robin

Dorothy E. Smith

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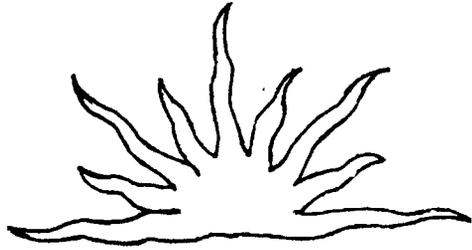
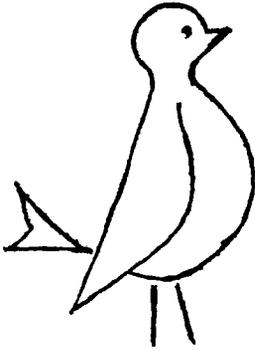


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ROUND ROBIN

Dorothy E. Smith, Editor

Dear Readers,

In the Spring 1974 issue of *Reading Horizons* we published several teachers' views on certain elementary reading programs. We are continuing with them here, because many of you have suggested we do so. Again we are identifying the critic but not the school system represented.

Ginn 360

This is our first year using Ginn 360, and it is difficult to evaluate the series as a whole. We really like it so far. We are a bit confused because of the amount of material we are expected to cover. There is a great deal of phonics involved. The books are good, colorful, and interesting. They have a wide variety of materials, such as stories, plays and poems. They introduce basic words, decodable words and enrichment words, so children are really bathed in word study. There are a few small things that we found we don't like, such as the way syllables are taught. But, over-all, we like the series and so do the children.

Joan Dopp

Ginn 360

Advantages

Good progression of skills if used consistently throughout grade levels

Interesting stories

Disadvantages

Student ideas and initiative are not used, per se, in series but may be brought in by the teacher and incorporated

Good teacher's edition

Many aids: workbooks, dittos, and activities suggested

The books are divided by levels, not grades

Great follow-through with related skills

Advanced books get into some subject areas

Easily adapted to individual needs

Expensive to get all the aids

Sometimes the set-up is a bit too structured, but again it can be molded by the teacher

Large books sometimes make the goals seem far away

Pat Mueller

Scott Foresman: Language Experience

Advantages: Great for slow learners; the child's learning is based on what is important to him. It develops fantastic self concept, since the child cannot be wrong. If he forgets a word, it is regarded as "not really important" and torn up. The vocabulary is allowed to expand normally and naturally. The child progresses as he seems ready, and is not pushed along.

Disadvantages: I haven't had the courage yet to use this solely. I feel more confident using it in addition to a basal reader.

Vickie Dove

Scott Foresman: Language Experience

I like the idea of children using their own words to begin reading. What has some meaning for them certainly will provide motivation. However, as far as decoding words goes, I think some additional work needs to be provided. I can see where some of the children might need much more work in extending their experiences, but there certainly are plenty of great ideas presented in the manual for this. My own child, who isn't in school yet, loves to make her own books that she can read.

Diane Bussema

Houghton Mifflin

The stories are good and do help the children enjoy reading, but the over-emphasis on skills sometimes lessens the enjoyment for the child as he begins to become saddled with trying to read only for that

one skill. Grouping is a problem unless the teacher can deviate from the guide and form groups which contain only students who need help on that skill, rather than the entire class. Reading should be enjoyable, but it can't be if one stays strictly with the basal reader.

Tom Hunter

Houghton Mifflin

I think it's great. There are varied and interesting stories, poems, plays. Goals are established to help children gain control of specific skills leading to independent reading and to broaden interests in reading. There is conversation even in the earliest books. They use everyday speech-contractions, too. Skills of interpreting and evaluating are stressed in the earliest books. There are instructions on reading books to help recognize style, character development, and setting.

Barb Dobbie