AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT BALL STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE TEACHING OF READING IMPROVEMENT IN GRADES SEVEN THROUGH TWELVE

A Project Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for I. D. 499, Senior Honors Project

by

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I recommend this project for acceptance by the Honors Program of Ball State University for graduation with honors.

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Introduction

The continued importance of reading in the communication system of this technically advancing society and the apparent inability of many people who have graduated from high school to read, comprehend, and evaluate even the simplest materials\(^1,2,3\) has led to a realization on the part of administrators and teachers that reading improvement, both developmental and remedial,\(^4\) must be emphasized at the secondary level of instruction rather than, as has been done in the past, leaving its further development to chance on the assumption that students will have achieved reading proficiency in the elementary school. To meet the needs of these resulting developmental and remedial reading programs at the junior and senior levels,\(^3\)


\(^3\)Guy L. and Eva Bond, Developmental Reading in High School. (New York, 1941), p. 4.

\(^4\)According to Fowler, the term developmental reading "applies to the whole program of reading improvement for all readers, regardless of grade level or intelligence, who have failed to master some of the skills necessary to good reading." Remedial reading instruction, on the other hand, is reserved for those 'students whose development of reading skills is below normal . . . of performance for his age or grade.' (p. 102) This distinction between developmental reading and remedial reading is maintained throughout this bibliography. (See bibliography of materials consulted for note.)
high school levels, grades seven through twelve, publishers have responded by issuing a multitude of materials which the teacher of English or the teacher of reading can never hope to examine in its entirety.

This bibliography, then, presents a detailed description of materials available for examination at Ball State University for the teaching, at the secondary level, of reading improvement which emphasizes three general skills. According to Bamman, Hogan, and Greene, "setting a purpose for reading, skimming, reading intensively, and reacting to what is read are . . . classified as reading skills . . . However the term study skills refers further to the application of reading skills to specific study tasks . . ."\(^5\) Herber further distinguishes vocabulary skills as "the applicable receptive, reflective, and expressive skills necessary to enlarge one's vocabulary and employ it sensitively."\(^6\) The teaching of reading improvement, then, to be complete will include instruction in general reading skills, study skills, and vocabulary skills.

Consequently, inclusion of materials in this bibliography is limited to those textbooks, workbooks, and kits devoted to general reading skills, vocabulary skills, and study skills which might be used in the classroom situation rather than the


high-interest, easy-reading material which students would use outside the classroom. The location of materials, which are available at the Reading Clinic (RC), the English Education Laboratory (EE), and the Curriculum Laboratory in the Library (CL), is indicated by the above abbreviations in parenthesis following the bibliographic information for each item. Arrangement is alphabetical by publisher in divisions established according to the scope of the material examined. Part I includes those materials devoted to general reading skills, while Parts II and III include materials specializing in vocabulary development and improvement of study skills, respectively.

Each entry is comprised of six basic parts. The first part, Format, describes the physical aspects of the material such as binding, general appearance, and unusual shapes or sizes. Level refers to the grade or ability level for which the work is intended as indicated by either the author or the publisher. Purpose, the third part, quotes the author's statement of intent from his introductory remarks, while the section on Content, generally the longest, describes the organization of the material, including the types of reading selections and exercises and the major emphasis. Special Features are any aspects of the material which might enhance its usefulness, such as a teacher's manual, tests, bibliographies, and improvement charts. While the first five sections of the annotation are primarily concerned with the facts of the material, the last section, Remarks, attempts to
suggest the quality of the material in terms of its appeal and the situations in which the material might be most satisfactorily utilized. This evaluation is based upon the compiler's examination of the material rather than upon her actual experience with the material in the classroom.

As concerns form, this bibliography has been typed as a manuscript to simplify storage by the Honors Program. Extended use of this bibliography, however, will be greatly enhanced since items have been filed on cards during compilation, thus allowing continual rearrangement, addition of newly-published materials, and deletion of outdated materials by the compiler.

Although limited in scope, this bibliography will provide the compiler with detailed knowledge of materials that could be used in her teaching or recommended by her either to faculty members or to administrators for group or individual instruction. Other users might find this bibliography helpful as a selection tool, as a guide for becoming familiar with available materials, or as the basis for beginning a bibliography of their own.

Difficulties encountered in compiling this bibliography include inavailability of materials (since the materials examined, although readily available at Ball State, include only a small portion of those published), a shortage of time on the part of the compiler, and the absence of a specific group with which the material is to be used, thus making
determination of specific usefulness more difficult. Further development of this bibliography could include an examination of standardized reading tests which are necessary to the proper implementation of a reading program, graded reading materials designed to be high in interest but low in difficulty, bibliographies of available materials, and professional materials which suggest to the teacher effective methods of teaching reading improvement and establishing developmental and remedial reading programs.
comprehension, speed and critical reading . . . to
demonstrate the use of such aids to better reading as:
recognizing the meaning of new words through context,
word structure, and phonetic analysis; finding key ideas
in paragraphs; outlining key ideas; widening eye span;
and controlling reading speed."

Contents - Chapters are devoted to enjoyment of reading,
clues to word recognition, vocabulary building, key
ideas and comprehension, outlining, improvement of speed,
critical reading, review, and self-test. Material is
explained but not many exercises are provided. Although
an independent unit, this program "is related to the
Coronet film series READING IMPROVEMENT, which includes
five films on the subjects Defining the Good Reader,
Word Recognition Skills, Vocabulary Skills, Comprehension
Skills, and Effective Speeds."

Special Features - answer card.
Remarks - Suitable for independent work or a short class
unit on reading skills. While the manual would seem
childish to older students, the films could easily be
shown at any level.

The John Day Company

Neufeld, Rose G., Reading Fundamentals for Teen-Agers. New

Format - 63-page workbook with the reading selection on the
left-hand page and the exercises for that selection
directly across from it on the right.

Level - junior high.
Purpose - "to provide a series of corrective reading exercises
for a special group of retarded readers--the young adoles-
cent who reads on the third or fourth grade level."

Contents - Thirty short reading selections geared to the
junior high interest level but third and fourth grade
reading level are followed by comprehension questions,
vocabulary development exercises, and basic word attack
skill drills through the fourth grade level. Selections
are not designed to be timed and are sequential.

Special Features - method for use explained in "To the Teacher,"
scoring scale at the bottom of exercises, guide to the
sound of letters on the inside of the back cover.
Remarks - for a seventh or eighth grade class of retarded
readers. Format would make it seem childish to older
students.

Level - Grades 11 and 12 and college.
Purpose - "To help you broaden your reading coverage, heighten your reading comprehension, make better report and examination grades."
Contents - Sixteen chapters include discussions of phrase reading, indenting, pre-reading, critical reading, increasing vocabulary, using time wisely, note-taking, pre-study, summarizing, and examinations. Chapters are primarily explanatory but contain examples for practice and timed reading exercises.
Special Features - discussion of propaganda techniques, chart of English roots and affixes.
Remarks - Aimed at the college freshman, this handbook would be valuable for any senior high student who is bound for college.


Format - 319-page, paper-bound workbook with perforated pages, designed to be used only once.
Level - Grades 7 through 10.
Purpose - "designed to promote the mutual development of reading speed and reading comprehension through group stimulation."
Contents - Exercises have been standardized as much as possible in order to make them comparable and are arranged in order of increasing difficulty. Vocabulary for drills on word recognition and word meaning occur in Thorndike's list of most frequently used words. Other series of drills give practice in phrase meaning, sentence meaning, idea reading, exploratory reading and study reading. Comprehension tests are provided for reading selections in the last three series. Introductory articles discuss general aspects of reading.
Special Features - Vocabulary Lists, Progress Charts, Tables for Compiling Rates, Keys, Program for Effective Study.
Remarks - Reading selections would appeal to students in a group most effectively but also individually.

**Format** - 395-page, paper-bound, reusable manual with perforated pages.

**Level** - high school and college.

**Purpose** - "designed as a supplement to the basic reading exercises being used in most reading centers . . . provides the opportunity for extended practice of reading skills on standardized materials."

**Contents** - Ten and twenty minute exercises are "organized in three series of increasing length, with ten exercises in each series. All of the exercises have been rated by the Flesch Formula and have been arranged in each series in a sequence of gradually increasing difficulty." Comprehension tests for each selection are placed at the back of the book and have been set up on a basis of comparable difficulty so that comprehension scores can be compared.

**Special Features** - time rate charts directly below reading selections, standardized pre-test and post-test, scoring key, answer sheet model, Time Budget Sheet (hints for effective study) Reading Progress Chart.

**Remarks** - Articles are informative and appealing to students. Ideal for program of reading practice.

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Educational Developmental Laboratories


**Format** - set includes 25 filmstrips per level, Controlled Reading Study Guide for each level, Study Cards (for use in situations in which the Study Guide cannot be purchased for each student), and Progress Records (for use in situations in which the Study Guide is not to be written in). Also needed is a EDL Controlled Reader Jr. which projects the filmstrips at various rates.

**Level** - Grades 7 through 12 (also available for primary and college levels)

**Purpose** - "makes possible the improvement of vital interpretative and functional skills."

**Contents** - Selections for levels seven through twelve contain from 1250 to 1700 words and cover such subjects as biography, careers, science, and fiction. During the training, the filmed reading selections are projected at a controlled rate which can be varied from 0 to 1000 words per minute.
A moving slot uncovers the story in a left-to-right, line-by-line fashion. The Study Guide aids the student in individual work. "First, the student previews a printed version of the selection. This preliminary step helps him to establish his purpose for reading, and to anticipate what he will learn from the selection. Next, he studies difficult or unusual words he will meet in the selection. After he has read the story with the Controlled Reader [the Study Guide also contains the text of the story], he answers questions which show him how well he has understood his reading."

Special Features - Teacher's Guide
Remarks - For schools which have the funds available to purchase the equipment needed, this program would be ideal for use with a group in a reading laboratory or for individual use. Also, the Study Guide could be used by itself.


Format - thirty recordings (either tape or disc) with an accompanying student workbook and scripts to tapes.
Level - "Set G-L for reading levels seven through twelve."
Purpose - "designed to introduce the student to the need for good listening and to develop the ability to listen with greater attention, discrimination, organization, and retention. Simultaneously, a variety of reading skills, understanding, and appreciations are developed."
Contents - Topics covered in recordings include vocabulary development, dictionary skills, organization, study habits, note taking, skimming, figurative language, and types of literature. "Each recording begins with an introductory sketch, dialogue, or sequence of sound effects in order to capture student interest and attention. The narrator introduces the students to the skill or concepts being dealt with and then guides them through listening and workbook exercises in which they gain practice in various phases of the skill or concept. The student workbook provides both visual reinforcement for the ideas being introduced and exercises in which the student applies what is learned at each step of the lesson." The total lesson takes from twenty-five to thirty minutes to complete and the total course takes fifteen hours to complete.

Special Features - Teacher’s Guide
Remarks - According to the author "LISTEN AND READ is an especially effective approach for any student whose reading level does not exceed the 7th grade, whose word knowledge is similarly limited, whose visual discrimination and visual memory are sufficiently low as to inhibit silent reading, whose reading rate is under 180 wpm, whose directional attack is poor and who lacks adequate insight into the syntax of our language."

Format - Each kit contains 144 Book Previews, 144 Reading Aid Cards, 144 Discussion Cards, one Teacher’s Guide, one Student Log, all stored in four individual holders that can be taken out of the main storage box.

Level - Grades 7-9.

Purpose - "Provide reading materials of high interest to adolescents . . . provide a satisfying reading experience to encourage formation of the reading habit . . . motivate students to read the complete book from which the excerpt was taken."

Contents - Book Previews each run about four pages in length, and all are excerpts from books that are highly recommended for junior high school libraries. The 144 selections are grouped according to subjects such as adventure, mystery, success, rebellion, teen-age world, humor, science and science fiction, animals, sports and people, and each is correlated with Reading Aid Cards which contain 4-6 discussion-type questions and Discussion Cards which suggest answers to these questions. Reading levels of selections range from grades 5-11 with the primary emphasis on grades 7, 8, and 9.

Special Features - Detailed Teacher’s Guide contains suggested plans for use, reprints of all book previews, summaries of novels from which selections are taken, and a reading skills classification chart.

Remarks - For the student who already possesses basic skills, this kit is aimed to develop interest rather than skills.

Follett Publishing Company


Format - Six paper-bound workbooks averaging around 60 pages each.

Level - junior high.

Purpose - "Provide a sequentially developed and integrated program of composition, language, and literature . . . designed for the junior-high students who lack the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, yet who have the mental ability to acquire these skills."

Contents - The six units are Conflict and Courage, Escape to Danger, Folk Tales and Folk Songs, Victory and Defeat, On the Lighter Side, and Family and Friends. Lessons are "standardized and highly structured, with the same
format used throughout" the series to "provide security for both the teacher and the students." Vocabulary, reading directions, and idea directions precede each selection. Reading selections, about two pages long, are drawn from literature and are sequential for several lessons thus providing for continuing interest. Following each selection are exercises on main ideas, oral composition, vocabulary development, and interpretation. Review lessons are interspersed with the reading.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Guide (with bibliography for students), Supplementary material - Comprehension Checks (exercises only so that books will not have to be discarded), Tests for Learning Your Language.

**Remarks** - For the student that does not have the background or interest for success in regular English courses, this series would provide a workable course.


**Format** - four paper-bound workbooks averaging about 100 pages each with photographs.

**Level** - junior and senior high school.

**Purpose** - "developed to meet the needs of junior high and senior high students who have not learned to read at their grade level and to introduce them to the world of work."

**Contents** - "The first four books in the series are Marie Perrone, Practical Nurse; The Delso Sisters, Beauticians; John Leveron, Auto Mechanic; and The Millers and Willie B., Butcher, Baker, Chef." Each book contains a story broken into short sections which are followed by comprehension checks. Checks include a pattern selection in which the student selects the main idea with its supporting details, detail selection, and vocabulary study. Selections, which involve teen-age problems as well as the various aspects of work, are written in informal English and are introduced by a section that looks back, a section that looks forward, and some vocabulary.

**Special Features** - Career information wheel on the inside of the front cover, score sheets, technical vocabulary, answer key.

**Remarks** - Photographs include people of different races. This series would be especially suited to the student who is only staying in school until he can drop-out or who will eventually graduate at the bottom of his class.
Tincher, Ethel, et. al., *Success in Language/ A*. 8 vols. 

**Format** - 8 paper-bound workbooks averaging about 50 pages each.

**Level** - "the slow-learning group nearing the legal dropout age."

**Purpose** - "aims to help students develop practical language skills based upon the communicative aspects of the lives they lead as teen-agers and the kinds of lives they may be expected to lead as adults."

**Contents** - The eight units are Reflections, Lend an Ear, As a Matter of Fact, The Sound Around Us, Let's Talk It Over, Say It On Paper, What's Behind the Cover, and The Job in Your Future. Each unit is divided into chapters which contain short reading selections, word study exercises for that selection and comprehension drills that not only emphasize language but also ideas in selections of interest to the teen-ager.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Guide; Supplementary Material--Comprehension Checks (exercises only for those who do not want to discard books), Tests for *Success in Language/ A* (eight unit tests), *Adventures in Negro History* (record to go with Unit 2).

**Remarks** - Designed to be done primarily in the classroom, this series would be suitable for lower ability students in the upper grades.

**Globe Book Company**


**Format** - 243-page, hard-bound text with photographs.

**Level** - Grade 7 (remedial)

**Purpose** - "to satisfy the special needs of youngsters requiring intensive instruction for reading improvement."

**Contents** - The major portion of the book consists of fifty short, "highly interesting reading selections, many of them drawn [and adapted] from the classics," which are followed by questions designed to test vocabulary, retention of facts, titling of the story, predicting outcomes, selecting the main ideas, arranging events or ideas in order, appreciating the mood of the story, and drawing inferences. Selections are arranged in order of increasing difficulty and drills in the back of the book give remedial practice in word recognition, vocabulary building, word-study skills, comprehension, and finding picture clues.

**Special Features** - progress chart, separate answer key.

**Remarks** - The remedial drills are almost too short to provide for any improvement and the value of adapting classics and the shortness of selections are questioned.

**Format** - 214-page, hard-bound text with photographs.

**Level** - Grades 7 and 8 (remedial)

**Purpose** - "designed for the student who has difficulty in comprehending the printed page . . . stresses reading for information in school and out."

**Contents** - "The volume is divided into three sections. Part One, Reading to Learn, contains selections based upon the core of common learnings which is requisite for all youth entering upon secondary education. Part Two, Reading for Social Living, has as its focus vocational and recreational areas. Finally, Part Three, Reading Tests, Drills and Word Games, includes practice exercises in phonics, word study, and vocabulary and reading tests." All selections are short and word count is given for computation of rate. Comprehension questions of various kinds follow each selection.

**Special Features** - Contents arranged by subject area, silent reading rate chart, graded reading tests, vocabulary tests, answer key.

**Remarks** - Reading selections cover a great variety of subjects and would be useful for intensive remedial practice.


**Format** - 210-page, hard-bound text with photographs.

**Level** - Grades 7 and 8 (remedial)

**Purpose** - "designed for intensive practice and drill in specific reading skills for students in need of corrective and remedial instruction."

**Contents** - "Part I, Reading for Information, contains brief selections of a factual nature drawn from the major subject areas. Part II, Reading for Pleasure, includes several short stories and episodes from novels adapted for easy readability. Finally, Part III, Building Reading Skills, features several reading tests, drills, and word games." Selections are around 1000 words each and are followed by comprehension questions.

**Special Features** - Contents arranged by subject area, Appendix: Selections arranged in approximate order of difficulty, answer key.

**Remarks** - As in Effective Reading, many of the articles are adapted but are generally much longer in length. This might be used following the use of Effective Reading to build comprehension and speed in the reader who needs remedial work.

**Format** - 448-page, hard-cover text book.

**Level** - Grade 7 or 8.

**Purpose** - To provide reading experiences that will help students develop reading skills appropriate for various reading purposes.

**Contents** - Devoted to learning how to read rather than to a collection of reading selections, this book is designed to be used in the classroom along with a general reading anthology. Material is arranged according to the type of skill to prevent confusion and is carefully graded. Chapters cover skimming, reading with care, inferences, outlining and organizing, reading with a purpose, special study skills, word study, and vocabulary improvement.

**Special Features** - Inventory of reading skills (states the purpose of each section and the level of gradation of each exercise), Teachers' Key.

**Remarks** - Although somewhat lacking in the quantity of exercises, this book would serve well as a supplement to the general anthology used in the seventh or eighth grades or for the general text in a class of retarded readers.

Grolier Educational Corporation


**Format** - Each kit contains 120 different reading selections, 120 skill cards, 120 answer keys, 30 student record books, and one Teacher's Manual.

**Level** - Third and fourth grade reading levels--"intended for the potential or actual dropout who has never learned to read properly."

**Purpose** - "Developed specifically for the student with underdeveloped reading skills . . . designed to win and sustain the attention of the student with minimal interest in typical elementary reading materials."

**Contents** - Reading selections are grouped into six color-keyed divisions arranged in increasing order of difficulty. Reading selections average ten short paragraphs in length printed on a four page booklet, covering such topics as "Jobs with the Government" and "Should Women Go Into Space" designed to be of interest to high school age students, and are followed by comprehension questions that test understanding. Skill cards coded to correlate with reading selections concentrate on vocabulary skills. Students record their progress in Record Books.

**Special Features** - Detailed instructor's guide.
Remarks - The subject matter, written at a very low reading level, would probably be of more interest to students who are potential dropouts and need remedial work than the SRA Reading Laboratories which are designed more for the student who needs developmental work and has a greater interest in reading.

C. S. Hammond and Company


Format - 220-page, hard-bound text with illustrations.
Level - Grade 7 (remedial)
Purpose - emphasis is on reading as a thinking process.
Contents - Divided into five parts at increasing levels of difficulty, this text includes chapters at each level on vocabulary development, detailed reading, paragraph understanding, inference, skimming, dictionary skills, and outlining. Exercises are plentiful, providing for extended practice of newly learned skills, and reading selections are from various subject areas.
Special Features - sample pages from a dictionary, general index.
Remarks - The author states in his forward that the skills covered are "essential to the normal reading experience of grades 5, 6, and which may need review at grade 7," thus making it useful for the students who have not developed basic skills by the time they enter grade 7.

Harcourt, Brace, and World


Format - two paper-bound workbooks averaging about 160 pages each.
Level - Level I - Grades 9 and 10; Level II - Grades 11 and 12.
Purpose - "to increase reading speed, to sharpen and extend comprehension ... to develop the ability to organize what is read; to encourage growth of powers of retention; and to extend and refine reading tastes."
Contents - Each book is divided into three units. Part I on developing speed and comprehension contains 26 essays of varying ability and interest levels which are designed to be timed and are followed by a comprehension check exercise and a vocabulary check exercise. Also included in this part is a section on "Getting the Idea" which contains twenty short selections designed to "sharpen critical analysis and subtlety of interpretation."
Part II emphasizes vocabulary and includes five graded vocabulary tests and forty-one exercises "designed to create interest in words and to enlarge vocabulary." Part III on reading and understanding "studies the basic purposes of reading and the different types of reading."

Special Features - Teacher's Manual, progress tests, progress chart, and personal word list.

Remarks - well-rounded developmental program for students who already possess basic skills.

D. C. Heath and Company


Format - 303-page, paper-bound manual with perforated pages.

Level - Grades 11 and 12.

Purpose - "intended to help you develop that reading efficiency so important in college and long afterwards."

Contents - Sixty-eight reading selections are included on the basis of interest ratings by students and are divided into sections which contain background information necessary for understanding the communication process, offer special help with reading problems, treat problems of written and spoken expression, and contribute insights about listening. Selections are rated according to the Flesch scale and comprehension and vocabulary check questions and exercises for each selection are provided in a special section at the back.

Special Features - answers to questions, conversion tables for rates, "Index According to Order of Difficulty," "Progress Record Sheet," "Pacing Aids Sheet," and "Selective Bibliography."

Remarks - Selections contain valuable information interestingly presented. Definitely for the student who already possesses basic skills.


Remarks - Although following the same format and arrangement as Strang and Roberts' Teen-Age Tales, the stories in this collection seem to be aimed at a younger reader.

Format - 472-page, hard-bound text.
Level - "secondary"
Purpose - "designed primarily to provide for secondary schools a systematic course in reading improvement."
Contents - Units are devoted to "Getting Settled," an introductory unit, "Discovery Tests," "Main Ideas," "Details," "Using Your Mental Switchboard," which encourages the student to think about his reading, "What's in a Picture," and word study. The units on main ideas, details, and thought processes are divided into three chapters each which 1) explain the principles, 2) extend the principle with new applications, and 3) provide a long story to be read for speed and comprehension. Reading selections are followed by either questions or exercises. Many selections are illustrated with pictures.
Special Features - Teacher's Manual, index.
Remarks - Although it could be used well for average readers at the seventh and eighth grade levels, it would be especially good for retarded readers in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades since the interest levels of the reading selections are very high.


Format - Six text books averaging 250 pages each, available in paperback and hardback.
Level - disadvantaged and remedial students in high school and junior high school.
Purpose - "To give boys and girls the experience of reading for pleasure; to improve their reading ability; and to promote students' personal development through understanding of human behavior and identifying with admirable qualities of the characters."
Contents - The stories included in each book are adapted from magazine articles and chapters of books. The stories are relatively short, containing modified sentence structure and vocabulary. Each book is of increasing difficulty, but none are as difficult as the material in a standard sophomore literature text. The stories are primarily about teenagers and their interests and contain a great deal of conversation and action. Stories are profusely illustrated with drawings, and questions for each story are located in a section at the back of the book.
Special Features - Teacher's Manual.
Remarks - The emphasis in these books is primarily on reading rather than any skill practice. Use in high school would run the risk of seeming childish.
Holt, Rinehart, and Winston


**Format** - 319-page, paper-bound workbook with perforated pages, designed to be discarded after use.

**Level** - Grades 11 and 12 and college.

**Purpose** - "to promote the mutual development of reading speed and reading comprehension through group motivation."

**Contents** - Exercises, which are standardized for purposes of comparison, provide practice in word recognition, word meaning, phrase meaning, sentence meaning, idea reading, exploratory reading, and study reading. Comprehension questions are provided for the reading sections and drills are designed to overlap. Reading material has been rated by the Flesch formula and vocabulary words have been taken from Thorndike's list of the 30,000 most frequently used words. The introduction discusses in detail important aspects of reading.

**Special Features** - Vocabulary Lists, Progress Charts, Tables for Compiling Rates, Keys.

**Remarks** - Great variety of exercises would provide valuable practice for both average and above average students.

Wood, Evelyn N., and Barrows, Marjorie W., *Reading Skills*.

**Format** - 246-page, hard-back text.

**Level** - junior and senior high school—"especially helpful for ninth graders who need special help to qualify for the regular freshman school course."

**Purpose** - "designed especially for poor readers in junior and senior high schools."

**Contents** - Chapters are devoted to case studies of typical reading problems, physical skills such as fluent eye movement and silent reading, word skills, comprehension improvement, study skills, and test taking. Exercises are plentiful and interest levels high.

**Special Features** - student shutter cards for phrase reading, a test booklet on the reading selections, Teacher's Manual, Index to Reading Skills and Index to Reading Selections.

**Remarks** - Occasional chapters review skills already learned. Printed for phrase reading.
Laidlow Brothers


Format - four paper-bound workbooks with perforated pages.
Level - Grades 5-8.
Purpose - "designed to help students improve their reading skills."
Contents - "The lessons deal with language arts, history, geography, science, mathematics, and health and safety. They have been planned to develop the student's ability in six general skill areas: understanding vocabulary, dictionary use, interpretation, organization and application." Each lesson is complete on one page and varies to include reading practice and skill development.
Special Features - Improvement chart.
Remarks - The sentence structure of the reading selections consists almost entirely of simple sentences, thus making this series suitable for the remedial reader but not for the better reader.

J. B. Lippincott Company


Format - paper-bound workbooks averaging about 70 pages each.
Level - Grades 7 through 9.
Purpose - "To help students to read well and to enjoy reading."
Contents - Each level contains 32 lessons, each two pages in length. A short reading selection, which was chosen on the basis of a student interest survey, in each unit has difficult words underlined and defined below the selection on the basis of their use. Short exercises dealing with each selection emphasize word meanings, title choices, central ideas, details, outlining, and conclusions.
Special Features - Teacher's Manual, preliminary practice units, progress chart, illustrations.
Remarks - Useful as supplementary work in an English class of average or possibly above average students.

**Format** - paper-bound workbooks averaging about 55 pages each and designed to be discarded after use.

**Level** - Grades 10 through 12.

**Purpose** - "to help people improve their reading habits."

**Contents** - Each book contains 24 units, two pages each in length. Each unit contains a short reading selection with potentially difficult words underlined and defined below the selection. Exercises on the selection cover word meaning, title choice, main idea, facts, outlining, and summarizing.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Manual, progress chart.

**Remarks** - Useful as supplementary material in a reading course for average students who possess basic reading skills.


**Format** - two hard-bound texts averaging about 370 pages each and two paper-bound workbooks averaging about 125 pages each.

**Level** - Grades 7 and 8.

**Purpose** - "seek to reward the young learner with amusing or exciting stories as fast as we have the words for them."

**Contents** - Each volume contains literary selections because "the best literature is the best discipline for reading instruction, because it contains the most accurate and effective use of our language." The Teacher's Edition provides questions for study while the workbook provides questions for development of reading and vocabulary skills.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Edition.

**Remarks** - While similar to a regular anthology, this series concentrates on building vocabulary from the first grade on.

McGraw-Hill Book Company

*Classroom Reading Clinic*. St. Louis: Webster Division, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1966. (EE)

**Format** - The kit contains diagnostic tests, New Webster Word Wheels, Everyreader Series, Teacher's Guide for Remedial Reading, The Magic World of Dr. Spello, Reading Skill Cards, Basic Sight Vocabulary Cards, and Group Word Teaching Game. Also Conquests in Reading.

**Level** - reading levels 2 through 8.

**Purpose** - "provides complete instructions as well as all the materials the classroom teacher needs to diagnose and correct reading weaknesses."
Contents - This program is centered around a remedial workbook—Conquests in Reading—which presents "the basic phonetic and structural analysis skills" needed for success in reading. The Teacher's Edition refers the teacher to sections of the book by William Kottmeyer called Teacher's Guide for Remedial Reading for further help. A group of 14 diagnostic tests measure progress in the workbook. Sixty-three word wheels including 17 beginning blend wheels, 20 prefix wheels, 18 suffix wheels and 8 two-letter consonant wheels build power in the areas of phonetic and structural analysis skills. Fifteen paperbacks from the Everyreader Series provide extended reading experience at the fourth grade reading level for students with higher interest levels. Fundamental spelling skills are strengthened through The Magic World of Dr. Spello, while reading for meaning is emphasized on skill cards. Vocabulary cards and a bingo-type word game reinforce basic recognition skills.

Special Features - Teacher's Manual.

Remarks - For remedial classes at the junior high level, this clinic would provide a complete range of activities. However, at the high school level, it would probably seem childish.


Format - 400-page, hard-bound text.
Level - senior high school.
Purpose - "to show the student how to come to grips with the page of print that he may read with speed and precision."

Contents - Using a one-two-three approach, the author begins with short units on self-analysis followed by two longer units on basic techniques and practice, ending with units that test comprehension of the reading and provide answers to the questions. Basic techniques discussed include understanding of paragraphs, chapter and book organization, using the library, critical reading and skimming. Chapters are meant to be used simultaneously and are arranged in the textbook fashion so that important points appear in bold print. Each chapter on techniques is preceded by a Procedure Chart that spells out the essential steps for reading improvement in that chapter.

Special Features - Progress Charts (on inside covers).

Remarks - This hard back text requires some writing in the book itself which seems somewhat impractical, but the presentation is extremely clear and practical and the articles are entertaining and informative, making the book an ideal text for the developmental reading program at the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade level.

**Format** - three hard-bound texts, averaging about 300 pages each with attractive two-tone covers.

**Level** - Grades 7, 8, and 9.

**Purpose** - To provide a program for the development of reading skills over a three year period.

**Contents** - Book I emphasizes comprehension through increased vocabulary, word study, use of context clues, dictionary skills and study skills. Book II extends the principles presented in the first book and includes study of skimming, the efficient use of certain parts of the book, and reading with greater appreciation. Book III re-emphasizes comprehension skills and provides some practice in speed reading and critical reading. Explanations and reading selections are followed by exercises in each book.

**Special Features** - Teacher's annotated edition, list of exercises.

**Remarks** - This course would be suitable for average readers but would require additional literature. The slow reader might use a book lower than his grade level and still find the material at his interest level.


**Format** - series includes sixteen records, two Readalong Books per student, and a Teacher's Manual.

**Level** - Grade 4+

**Purpose** - *designed to help ... the student who has failed to learn this essential skill [reading] in his early school years ... learn how to read.*

**Contents** - This series concentrates on decoding (translating written symbols into spoken sounds) and comprehending the meaning represented by those sounds. Thirty-one sides of the sixteen records are instructional and review units while one side contains the overall pretests and post tests. Readalong Book I accompanies the first 16 recorded units while Book II accompanies the final 15 units. In a typical unit the voice invites the students to read along silently in the book. The student is introduced to the decoding signal treated in the unit and then practices recognizing and decoding the new signal. Correct answers are given immediately for the student to check. Words containing the decoding signal are underlined in the Readalong story so that students can practice and review. The unit is completed with some type of secret code activity.

**Special Features** - detailed Teacher's Manual.

**Remarks** - The secret code aspect of this series would probably increase student enthusiasm.

**Format** - four paper-bound volumes averaging about 100 pages each.

**Level** - Grades 7-9.

**Purpose** - "a comprehensive literature and language arts program aimed at involving disadvantaged urban adolescents in meaningful reading experiences."

**Contents** - The four volumes are "A Family Is a Way of Feeling," "Stories in Song and Verse," "Who Am I?" and "Coping."

Each volume contains short stories, chapters from novels, verses, and folktales related to the theme of the volume. The theme is introduced generally in each volume and the selections by well-known authors deal with teen-age problems as well as with general problems of life. The selections are relatively easy to read, high in interest and excitement, and are not followed by exercises. The Teachers' Manual contains detailed lesson plans for each selection along with tests and suggested work sheets and supplementary reading lists.

**Special Features** - Teachers' Manual; photographs.

**Remarks** - The selections are ideal for the inner-city youth and at a high enough interest level to be used with students in grades 10 and 11 whose reading level is low.


**Format** - 273-page, paper-bound workbook (also available with perforated pages and without answers to exercises)

**Level** - Grades 11 and 12 and college freshmen.

**Purpose** - To improve the total act of reading.

**Contents** - Three sections develop the art of efficient reading. Section I concentrates on the different ways of reading--intensive, critical, and rapid--and provides discussion and practice for each method. Section II emphasizes vocabulary growth through study of context and word parts and through improvement of dictionary skills. Section III provides articles in the fields of social science, science, literature, and mathematics along with discussion of how to obtain background in each field.

**Special Features** - diagnostic tests, worksheet, answer key.

**Remarks** - The emphasis on the development of total reading ability rather than on skill development would require that use be with students who already possess the basic skills, probably college-bound groups but not exclusively.

Format - three paper-bound workbooks with illustrations.
Level - Book 1 - Grades 7-9; Book 2 - Grades 8-10; Book 3 - Grades 9-12.
Purpose - "To improve each student's reading ability by providing for a thorough, systematic development of all important reading and study skills, by basing skills-development exercises on articles students can both understand and enjoy, and by furnishing means to diagnose student strengths and weaknesses and to measure progress.

Contents - Articles adapted from various sources and running one to two pages in length are followed by comprehension exercises that test knowledge of vocabulary, facts, organization, and word structure. Special lessons which stress such reading skills as recognizing the sounds of words, using context clues, developing dictionary skills, and reading at different speeds intervene between the lessons containing articles and concentrate on different skills at different levels. Skilltapes are correlated with lessons and are designed to give the individual help that the teacher may not have time to give.

Special Features - Diagnostic tests, teacher's edition.
Remarks - This series is for those students who already read at the levels indicated and would be satisfactory for individual or group work in a reading laboratory.

Loretan, Joseph O., Building Reading Power. Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1964. (RC)

Format - Each boxed kit includes 5 each of 15 different booklets, one Teacher's Manual, 150 Response Sheets, and 5 masking sheets.
Level - Fifth grade reading level.
Purpose - "To insure possession of those reading skills which must be acquired by the end of the elementary grades if further academic progress is to be expected."

Contents - "Building Reading Power is composed of 15 booklets, each containing from 8 to 12 pages, grouped in three series; Context Clues, Structural Analysis, and Comprehension Skills." Each of the booklets contains 40 to 50 frames with the answers in the left column on the same page as the frame. Booklets on context clues cover picture and verbal context, visual clues, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and contextual limitation of meaning. Structural Analysis concentrates on prefixes while Comprehension Skills include main ideas, central thought of the paragraph and details.
Special Features - Teacher's Manual.
Remarks - Definitely remedial, this kit would seem childish to students above the eighth grade and might possibly be boring to those for whom it is intended.

Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Publishing Co., 1967. (RC)

Format - five paperbacks.
Level - reading level--Grades 4-7.5; interest level--Grades 7-12.
Purpose - designed to "encourage all students, regardless of background or ability, to read and to find both enjoyment and enlightenment in their reading."
Contents - Books in the series are *Courage Under Fire*, *Against the Odds*, *They Were First*, *In New Directions*, *People Like You*. Each book is a group of short stories, chapters from novels, poems, and plays arranged thematically. All selections emphasize current personalities and problems.
Special Features - comments precede each story, Teacher's Manual.
Remarks - Physical make-up is attractive. The selections are aimed toward inner-city youth, particularly boys, and although it is designed for the non-reader, the reading level seems somewhat above the grades 4-7.5 indicated by the publisher.

New York University Press


Format - all volumes are paper-bound, averaging about 50 pages each.
Level - slow readers in junior and senior high school.
Purpose - designed to reach the student who does not like to read by using material "about the real problems of adolescents."
Special Features - final examination for each book, dictionary definitions in each book for difficult words in that book.
Remarks - Although this series might run the risk of appearing childish to older students, it would be ideal for students of the lowest reading level who are nearing the legal dropout age.

**Format** - 240-page, paper-bound workbook.
**Level** - Grades 11 and 12 (and older)
**Purpose** - "to assist you in asking and answering the questions Why? What? and How?"
**Contents** - Articles are grouped according to four types of writing (story, description, explanation, and statement of opinion) and are arranged in order of increasing difficulty within each section. Selections are reprinted magazine articles and eight of the articles have under-scoring and marginal notes. Each selection is followed by writing suggestions and vocabulary, while comprehension questions in the back reinforce emphasis on active reading.
**Remarks** - The emphasis on active as opposed to passive reading is the stronger point of this workbook, but the lack of answers to the exercises and provisions for timing detract from its usefulness. The most valuable use would be with average readers who need to improve their comprehension, especially those students bound for college.


**Format** - 275-page, paper-bound workbook.
**Level** - Grades 11 and 12—"for those who are competent with simple, familiar materials but lack independence with more difficult passages."
**Purpose** - "to focus attention on some of the basic factors which bar the way to the effective reading of sentences, paragraphs, and short articles and to provide training exercises which are widely varied in their approaches and purposes."
**Contents** - Chanters are arranged in order of increasing difficulty and each contains vocabulary exercises, explanation of skills and reading selections. Reading selections are short and are followed by comprehension questions. The book is designed for a course of twelve weeks and provides for outside reading and testing.
**Special Features** - test record sheet, progress charts, conversion table, answer keys.
**Remarks** - Articles are appealing, and although the course is designed with adults in mind, it would be useful for juniors or seniors who already possess basic reading skills.

**Format** - six paper-bound workbooks.
**Level** - Grades 7 through 12.
**Purpose** - "designed to develop, maintain, and increase the basic reading abilities and study skills needed by junior and senior high school students in working with all types of reading matter.

**Contents** - "Each of the first three books contains nine units. Each unit contains a story, a social studies selection, a science selection, and a mathematics selection. Several pages of each unit are devoted to improvement of such common skills as use of phonics, use and meaning of prefixes and suffixes; syllabication; rapid reading and critical reading; location of information in tables of contents, indexes, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and libraries; and vocabulary development in specific fields. . . . In the upper grades of high school, subject becomes so highly specialized that in Books IV, V, and VI, separate chapters are devoted to special approaches and skills needed for reading in the different subjects . . . preceded by several chapters designed to improve ability in the common reading skills needed for all fields."

**Special Features** - detailed Teacher's Guide.
**Remarks** - Although the covers of the workbooks are not particularly attractive, the series' inclusion of various subject matter would give it wider appeal in terms of interest than a series which included primarily literary reading.


**Format** - three paper-bound workbooks.
**Level** - reading level--grades 4 through 6 (extension downward of *Be a Better Reader*).
**Purpose** - "designed primarily to provide skill development in reading in the content subjects."

**Contents** - "Specialized subject matter skills are taught in units in which a literature selection, a social studies selection, a science selection, and a mathematics selection are integrated around a single unit theme. These selections closely represent in contents, patterns, and topics the reading material found in different content area textbooks. Special practice on skills common to all types of reading is provided on pages placed between the content subject units. Interleaved between all units several pages appear which give practice on such phrases of reading as word recognition, location of information, paragraph organization, and vocabulary enrichment."
Special Features - Teacher's Edition.
Remarks - For the students in junior high school who do not have the reading ability to begin Book I of Be A Better Reader series, these three volumes could be used to develop skills to the seventh grade level.

Format - pocket-size paperback.
Level - senior high and college.
Purpose - "to help you read as well as you want to read."
Contents - Specially adapted under the supervision of the author from Read Faster--and Get More From Your Reading, this book contains chapters on increased speed, awareness of details and signposts, preview techniques and skimming skills. Chapters include vocabulary, reading, and comprehension exercises.
Special Features - answer keys in back; index.
Remarks - Primarily a self-improvement manual, this book could be recommended to the average reader who wants to do some individual work toward improvement.

Format - 168-page, paper-bound workbook.
Level - "high school seniors, college freshmen, and laymen in general."
Purpose - "designed to improve the total effectiveness of reading by developing the basic skills involved in reading."
Contents - "There are two main series of exercises: (1) a series of 10 sets of reading exercises for improving basic functions of reading. (2) a series of 20 word-study projects involving the mastery of a total of 500 words carefully selected as significant for the intended users of this manual. In recognition of the importance of reading in the sphere of business, some special attention is given to such material, not merely for people engaged in commercial pursuits, but for others as well." The sets of reading and word-study projects alternate.
Special Features - diagnostic vocabulary and reading tests, improvement chart.
Remarks - This manual would be especially useful for students planning to enter business to do individual developmental work. Lack of answers to exercises detracts from value.
Reader's Digest Service, Inc.


Format - similar to a regular edition of Reader's Digest, only less bulky.
Level - Grades 7 and 8.
Purpose - "offer students opportunities to enjoy and understand what is read, to interpret facts and ideas in the light of individual experiences and backgrounds, to build vocabulary and develop awareness of semantic principles."
Contents - Selections are adapted from Reader's Digest for the reading level indicated. Quizzes, exercises, and related activities follow selections while some selections are designed for "Reading On Your Own."
Special Features - Teacher's Edition.
Remarks - The well-known format of Reader's Digest and the fact that the grade level is not printed on the students' copies make this an attractive series for remedial students in high school, as well as seventh and eighth graders.


Format - similar to The Reader's Digest, only less bulky.
Level - Part I--7th grade reading level; Part II--8th grade reading level.
Purpose - "To enjoy reading a variety of selections adapted from Reader's Digest, to think about and evaluate stimulating facts and ideas, to speed your reading comprehension."
Contents - Adapted selections on various subjects from Reader's Digest are followed by comprehension quizzes, vocabulary exercises, thought questions, and supplementary exercises. Articles can be timed and short sections after some selections provide insight into the techniques of reading.
Special Features - rate-conversion explanation, improvement chart, answers.
Remarks - The attractive format and selections of general interest to most people would make this an easy one to use in a self-improvement program or as supplementary work to a regular class.
The Reading Laboratory, Inc.


Format - a file box contains timed readings and supplementary exercises on individual cards, along with manuals.

Level - junior and senior high school students.

Purpose - "to fulfill the needs of the developmental reading student from the junior high school to the level of the college freshman."

Contents - 1) "a series of 180 timed readings on eight levels of difficulty within five broad subject areas." The selections are correlated with corresponding grade level school texts and are followed by comprehension questions; 2) a series of graded supplementary exercises of seven distinct types--sentence completion and inference, sentence correction, sentence jumble, direction following and visualizing, prefatory material, visual aid exercises and correlating exercises which are included with the readings. Each of the supplementary exercises is graded: 3) Individual Student Manual which explains the basic skills and techniques in the Developmental Reading Program; 4) Administrator's Guide which discusses the program and suggests a time table to be followed; and 5) the CAL-Q-RATER, a device for calculating reading speeds.

Special Features - answer key; rate conversion chart.

Remarks - This program would work well with small groups and would have the advantage of providing reading in several subject fields.


Format - 76-page, pamphlet-type practice book.

Level - senior high school students.

Purpose - "to be used individually or as part of a Special Developmental Reading Training Program."

Contents - Ten reading exercises of 1100 words each reprinted from The UNESCO Courtier are included with intervening vocabulary exercises, using words taken from the reading. Comprehension checks for each reading exercise are accomplished through a set of ten questions, the questions for all the sets being grouped at the back of the book. In addition, the first five articles are printed for phrase reading while the other five provide practice in summarizing paragraphs through a set of exercises at the back. The explanation is given in a two-page introduction.

Special Features - time-rate conversion table, answers to exercises grouped at the back.

Remarks - Because of the lack of explanation of basic skills, this booklet would be most useful in providing practice in developmental reading.
Science Research Associates, Inc.

Goldberg, Herman R., and Brumber, Winifred T., eds.,

Format - one hard-bound textbook and five exercise books at each level.
Level - "printed at three different reading levels, but the program is designed so that all three levels can be used in a single class without obvious grouping." interest level--grades 9-12 and adult; reading level: Level I--approximately grade 2; Level II--grades 3 and 4; Level III--grades 4 and 5.
Purpose - "provides both reading instruction and information about the world of work."
Contents - The hard-bound text, The Job Ahead, is divided into five sections on "Starting Work," "On the Job," "Keeping the Job," "Working for the City," and "Time Out for Leisure." The reading concerns teenagers as they look for jobs and the problems that they have with the jobs. The text contains only reading, but each section has an exercise book which contains various comprehension and word checks over the reading and correlated activities for each selection.
Special Features - teacher's guide.
Remarks - The low reading level, the informative and entertaining text and the similarity in levels that allows for use of several levels in the same classroom are features that make this series ideal for the students who are only staying in school until they are old enough to quit and find a job.


Format - Each kit contains Power Builders with a Key Card for each, Teacher's Handbook, Rate Builders and one Student Record Book.
Level - Laboratory IIIa--grades 7-9; Laboratory IIIb--grades 8-10; Laboratory IVa--grades 9-12.
Purpose - "designed to individualize the teaching program so that students might improve their reading skills."
Contents - This series contains three different types of activities. Power Builders are four-page reading selections designed to help students develop vocabulary, comprehension, and word attack skills in which students read a selection, answer comprehension and vocabulary questions and then check their answers with Key Cards. Each series contains from 15 to 20 Power Builders at each of nine different levels which are color-coded
and arranged in progressive order of difficulty. Subject matter includes biography, social studies, science, adventure, and everyday life. Listening Skill Builders for Levels IIIa, IIIb, and IVa and Listening-Notetaking Skill Builders for Level IVa are activities "designed to develop the students' ability to sift, understand, and retain what they hear. The teacher reads listening selections, and students answer comprehension questions in their record book... or organize and record their thoughts on paper, and compare their notes to models provided." Rate Builders include short reading selections followed by comprehension questions. The teacher limits the student to three minutes working time and the student checks his response by an answer key.

Special Features - Teacher's Handbook explains program and suggests time schedule; colored pencils.

Remarks - The attractive format and novelty of the idea to students would encourage their active participation provided the series were not over-used.


Format - Each library contains 72 Pilot Books, one Teacher's Handbook, and 20 Key Booklets. Libraries IIa, IIb, and IIc also include one Student Record Book.

Level - Library IIa--grade 4; Library IIb--grade 5; Library IIc--grades 6 and 7; Library IIIb--grades 8 and 9.

Purpose - "provides extended reading at approximately the same levels of difficulty as the corresponding Reading Laboratory."

Contents - Each Library contains excerpts from 72 full-length novels which are keyed to Power Builder selections in the Reading Laboratory. Each selection is 24 to 32 pages long and is printed like the original, thus introducing the student to novels which he might be interested in. The Student Record Book contains comprehension checks for each selection.

Special Features - Teacher's Handbook includes plot summaries, discussion questions, and charts which show the relationship between Pilot Books, Power Builders, and other curriculum content areas.

Remarks - The books cover a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books and each booklet contains suggestions for further reading, making this an excellent program to get students started reading, provided the teacher does not let the student stop after he has read the Pilot selection but encourages his reading the entire work. The teacher would want to make sure that the library has most of the selections available.

Format - hard-bound books averaging about 80 pages each.
Level - Levels of difficulty are measured by the Dale-Chall formula for predicting readability. Book 1 contains articles at grade 5.0 through 6.9 reading level. Book 2 includes articles at grades 7 and 8 reading levels. Book 3 is at grade 9 and 10 reading levels. "Book 4 will be at grade 11, 12, and 13 reading levels ... None of the Reading Books indicates its grade level of reading difficulty, either on the cover or inside, ... so that any book will be acceptable to the person who uses it, no matter what his present age or grade level is."

Purpose - "specifically designed to help students check upon their progress in reading rate and reading comprehension."

Contents - Each book contains 20 suggestions for reading practice outside the Reading Book, 20 articles of approximately the same length, and 20 tests designed to measure the student's comprehension. Articles of high interest are for given reading levels according to the book in which they are included, and tests are multiple choice type.

Special Features - SRA Reading Progress Folder which gives answers to the tests, a place to record outside reading practice, and a chart that indicates rate and comprehension improvement (can be ordered separately), detailed Instructor's Guide.

Remarks - ideal for testing progress and for practice in speed and comprehension.


Format - Each kit includes 400 cards, one Student Record Book, 40 answer key booklets, one Placement Test, and one Teacher's Handbook, all stored in a substantial cardboard box.

Level - General Edition--grades 5 through college; Junior Edition--grades 3-8; Senior Edition--grades 8-12. "intended for students who have acquired some skill in word recognition, word attack, and reading as taught in the primary grades."

Purpose - "designed to develop the student's ability to grasp the full meaning of what he reads by teaching him to analyze ideas and make logical conclusions."
Contents - Cards are arranged in progressive levels of difficulty with four cards for each level. A Placement Test determines at which level the student will begin. Each card consists of "ten short, provocative paragraphs in areas such as education, politics, history, art, science, business, sports, agriculture and philosophy. The student reads the selection and chooses the best of four possible suggested conclusions, implied in the selection but never stated directly. Correct conclusions are provided in the answer key." The student progresses to more difficult levels as he demonstrates proficiency.

Special Features - progress chart, Teacher's Handbook.

Remarks - The emphasis on determining implications from reading would make this series an important part of the total reading program provided students were made to realize how this skill carries over to their other reading.


Level - senior high.
Purpose - "designed to help you become a better reader."

Contents - Contains 20 articles, each about 1350 words long and followed by a comprehension test. Each selection is preceded by a lesson, including reading benefits, reading needs, reading for a purpose, skimming, detailed reading, study skills, evaluative reading, vocabulary building, and mature reading. Each lesson contains exercises, and the entire book would follow the use of How to Improve Your Reading if both were being used.

Special Features - progress folder, bibliography, time-rate table, answer key.

Remarks - If both Witty books were being used, How to Improve Your Reading would probably be best used in the ninth or tenth grade while this one might be used in the eleventh or twelfth grade. If just one were to be used, this one would probably be best.


Format - 275-page, hard-bound text.
Level - senior high.
Purpose - "designed to help you develop a skill that will bring you immeasurable benefits."

Contents - Contains 18 articles, each about 1350 words long and followed by comprehension tests. Fifteen of the articles are preceded by lessons on topics such as main ideas, remembering what is read, details, following
directions, adjusting the speed of reading, illustrations, reading aloud, vocabulary, and study habits, the lessons being reinforced by exercises.

**Special Features** - rate computation table, bibliography, progress folder.

**Remarks** - The selections are informational and interesting to read. This book would be useful for a developmental program in the senior high school, but the students would have to have the basic skills in order to use it.


**Format** - 52-page pamphlet with illustrations.
**Level** - junior and senior high.
**Purpose** - "to guide you in building up your reading ability."
**Contents** - Following chapters on the meaning and improvement of reading, rapid reading, vocabulary improvement, and understanding and locating books are discussed. No exercises are provided.
**Special Features** - bibliography (somewhat old)
**Remarks** - Might be used to interest students in reading improvement. Principles are still good even though the pamphlet is old.


**Format** - 40-page pamphlet with illustrations.
**Level** - junior high.
**Purpose** - to help the student learn to read better.
**Contents** - Primarily explanation, this booklet discusses the features of good reading, how to build vocabulary, how to read faster, how to get the most out of reading, and how to find wanted books. Contains no exercises.
**Special Features** - reading record, reading check list, speed and comprehension tests.
**Remarks** - This pamphlet might be used to stimulate an interest in reading improvement, especially with good students.


**Format** - four instructor's manuals, spiral-bound, and eight student workbooks.
**Level** - high school and adult illiterates and low-literates.
**Purpose** - "to progressively increase the capability of the learner to respond accurately to the printed form of words that are already meaningful to him in spoken form."

Contents - A reading program developed for the culturally disadvantaged adolescent and adult, this course assumes only that the student can speak the English language and is designed to help him achieve an eighth grade reading level with 150 to 300 hours of instruction. Three cycles require the student to learn at five levels: auditory meaning, discrimination, identification, compounding, and visual meaning. Cycle I requires the learner to recognize the letters in upper case form; Cycle II continues to lower case letters and adds several grammatical tools while Cycle III concentrates on words with various vowel sounds. The materials are presented in small, easily digestible units with emphasis on reading for meaning. Reading selections aim "at developing healthier social attitudes and more acceptable, realistic ways of adjusting to society." The Instructor's Manual is designed to be used by volunteers as well as experienced teachers.

Special Features - Instructor's Manual.
Remarks - This type of material would probably be used most successfully with adult evening groups, but would also be useful if a large number of the student population are functional illiterates.

Scott, Foresman and Company


Format - 192-page, paper-bound workbook.
Level - high school students who are below their grade level in reading ability but who can read at least at the sixth grade level.
Purpose - "to be used with high school students who need developmental teaching or reeducation in those skills and abilities that will enable them to interpret what they need and want to read."

Contents - Lessons are one or two pages long and cover main ideas, relationships, word forms and meanings, context clues, word analysis by various methods, phrase and sentence meaning, dictionary, summarizing and organizing, and reference materials. Also included are an introductory section on the ability to improve, survey tests, and books students may like.

Special Features - annotated guidebook.
Remarks - Students who did not already possess the basic reading skills presented here might have difficulty reading the explanatory material. Definitely remedial.
Silver Burdett Company


**Format** - Imitation leather cover with attractive design but only glued to spine. Artistic illustrations throughout books.

**Level** - Grades 7 through 12 (two books per grade level).

**Purpose** - "has as its fundamental goal the development of this independent reader, whose reading is directed toward the cultivation of both intellect and idiosyncrasy ... to improve the high levels of reading comprehension."

**Contents** - "Two textbooks are provided for each grade level. Odd-numbered books are designed to teach fundamental strategies of reading effectiveness. Even-numbered books are designed to extend the basic skills and techniques and to introduce additional strategies to students who are initially assessed as the more versatile readers in the classroom." Students are assessed through the use of either the Reading Versatility Tests developed by the Educational Developmental Laboratories or an informal reading inventory. Use of both assessment techniques and the proper placement of the student in the reading program are explained in the Teacher's Edition which gives an overview of the entire program at all levels. Each book is divided into sections which define the purpose of the skill, explain that skill, and then provide practice exercises.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Edition.

**Remarks** - Definitely for students who already possess basic skills but need to develop and practice comprehension skills. Selections would appeal to students.
II. Vocabulary Development

Doubleday and Company


**Format** - pocket-size paperback.
**Level** - junior and senior grade level.
**Purpose** - to teach "the secrets of building a larger vocabulary."
**Contents** - The chanters are set up for a three week course and discuss words in related subject groups. Intervening chanters cover grammar, pronunciation, derivations, and spelling. Meanings are discussed thoroughly and many tests and quizzes are included with answers at the bottom of each.
**Special Features** - frequent reviews.
**Remarks** - Intended for individual adult work, this book would help the junior or senior who is headed for college to improve his vocabulary if he wished to do some individual work.

Educational Developmental Laboratories


**Format** - 7 paper-bound, programed workbooks.
**Level** - Grades 7 through 13.
**Purpose** - "designed to help a student accomplish three purposes: 1) his existing vocabulary is reinforced and refined; 2) he learns many new words and their multiple meanings; 3) he learns a technique for unlocking the meaning of unfamiliar words through a study of context."
**Contents** - "Each ... book consists of 30 lessons of 10 words each, a total of 300 words per level. The words dealt with are taken from the *EDL Core Vocabulary* and are those judged to be of the highest frequency of usage at each level ... all words are presented in contextual settings, and each lesson is developed around
a theme or center of interest which is introduced in the first frame of each lesson." Each word is developed in three frames, giving the student the opportunity to see the word in a sentence, write a meaning for it, choose a synonym for the word and choose a sentence in which the word is correctly used.

**Special Features** - Placement test, Teacher's Guide.

**Remarks** - The programmed format and the variety of levels along with the tests for placing students at their level makes this an excellent series for use in a class with several different ability levels. The repetitive format would require that the series only be used for short periods of time to avoid boredom of the students.

**Globe Book Company**


**Format** - 325-page, hard-bound text with photographs and illustrations.

**Level** - Grades 8, 9, or 10—could be used in several different grades depending on the ability of the students.

**Purpose** - "intended for word study."

**Contents** - Several chapters are devoted to the study of a basic vocabulary in various subject fields, including business, literature, gardening and farming, social studies, science, mathematics, journalism, music, and art. Other chapters are devoted to word study skills, such as exactness, homonyms, word pairs, compounds, affixes and dictionary skills. In the chapters, words are defined and explained, both as to meaning and connotation, and are followed by numerous exercises.

**Special Features** - diagnostic vocabulary test, cartoons.

**Remarks** - This text would be suitable for a vocabulary course at the eighth, ninth, or tenth grade level, especially for students not necessarily bound for college.


**Format** - 100-page, paper-bound workbook designed either to be reused or discarded.

**Level** - junior high.

**Purpose** - "remedial in nature" to re-present material previously covered with a fresh approach so that students "may approach the learning experience with interest."

**Contents** - Chapters are extremely short (2-3 pages) and include the purpose of the unit, a brief explanation, one exercise, and practice suggestions. Material covered includes
compounding, vocabulary building based on a study of roots and affixes and a study of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, use of the dictionary, a study of related terms, and understanding the meaning of words in context. Different types of practice are repeated several times.

**Special Features** - interest inventory.

**Remarks** - Chapters are short enough to hold the interest of students, but possibly too short for effective practice. The "fresh approach" is somewhat lacking since exercises seem rather routine.

*C. S. Hammond and Company*


**Format** - paper-bound workbook printed on green sight-saving paper.

**Level** - Grades 7-12 and college. (For academic students, the First Book would probably be used in Grade 9 with the Junior Book and Introductory Book being used in junior high. For less able students, the First Book might be saved until a later grade.)

**Purpose** - "to assist you in acquiring a stock of words that will enable you increasingly to express your thoughts with accuracy and ease."

**Contents** - Words for each book are chosen from Thorndike and Lorge Teachers' Word Book of 30,000 Words according to their frequency of use (i.e. In the Second Book, words are used 5, 4, or 3 times.) Between 216 (Junior Book) and 360 words (First through Fifth Books) are taught in each book. Lessons include a list of words with space provided for students to write in definitions and exercises in which the students use the words in context. Every fourth lesson is a review.

**Special Features** - frequent review lessons.

**Remarks** - Useful for an English course in which one day per week is devoted to vocabulary study.

*Harper and Row*


**Format** - spiral-bound, paperback workbook.

**Level** - Grades 11 and 12.

**Purpose** - "to awaken an interest in words and a curiosity about their composition and history . . . to ensure a swifter and more accurate comprehension of what we read."
Contents - Lessons cover Greek roots and derivatives and Latin roots and derivatives. For each lesson the meanings of roots, suffixes, and prefixes are given along with a list of words derived from these parts. A Blank page is provided opposite the lesson for students to write the meanings of the given derivatives and other words they discover. Frequent intervening chapters contain review lessons and work in special fields.

Special Features - frequent activities, enrichment activities, alphabetical list of Greek roots and Latin roots, explicit directions for study, Teacher's Guide, charts that illustrate the growth of a word family.

Remarks - Use would be with a college bound class--either in a semester course or interspersed in a literature or composition course.

Lyons and Carnahan


Format - 128-page, programmed workbook.
Level - Grades 11 and 12.
Purpose - the student is expected to "learn the basic meanings of a set of common prefixes and roots . . . and to/learn how to analyze words into their component elements in order to learn and retain word meanings."

Contents - Twenty lessons on prefixes and fourteen lessons on roots are divided by frequent review exercises. Frames "are phrased so as to focus on the interrelationships" of the words, and the answer for each frame is on the same page in a column to the left. Fourteen words are used as the key to learning some 14,000 English words because they contain the twenty most important prefixes and the fourteen most important roots in the language.

Special Features - Teacher's Edition contains pre-test, post-test and supplementary exercises. Also included in the student's edition are sections on guided application, individual word lists, a bibliography, and answers to review exercises.

Remarks - The fourteen word mnemonic device and the programed format would make this somewhat easier to use than many vocabulary studies.


**Odyssey Press**


Format - 225-page, paper-bound workbook.
Level - high school.
Purpose - "to provide students with a means of acquiring greater facility in the use of words."
Contents - The first chapter attempts to arouse an interest in the significance of vocabulary while Chapter 2 discusses the heritage of the English language. Other chapters concentrate on basic word elements, precision and economy in word use, confusing word pairs, terms used in the discussion of space, science, law, medicine, music, art, and literature, improvement of speech and spelling habits, and use of the dictionary. Chapters contain general discussions, words defined and used in sentences, and exercises.
Special Features - Index.
Remarks - Exercises are plentiful and the vocabulary is the type needed especially by students headed for college. Lack of answers hinders use.

**Oxford Book Company**


Format - medium-sized, paper-bound workbooks.
Level - Grades 7 through 12.
Purpose - "designed to guide and stimulate the systematic vocabulary growth which is needed for a satisfying, adult level of word mastery."
Contents - "The work is divided into fifteen units, comprising more than 300 basic words. Each unit begins with an alphabetical listing of the words to be learned," and each word is followed by a definition and a phrase illustrating the word's use. Exercises which use the words in sentences and associate the words with antonyms and synonyms follow. Every third unit is a review which helps the student check the additions to his vocabulary. Words are selected on the basis of their frequency in modern media and their appearance on vocabulary lists which are used as the basis for teaching language skills.
Special Features - diagnostic test, mastery test, introductory section on "The Vocabulary of Vocabulary."
Remarks - This series might supplement a developmental reading program or a regular English class.
Reader's Digest Service, Inc.


Format - 96-page, paper-bound manual.
Level - junior and senior high school.
Purpose - "presents intriguing word games and exercises selected from Reader's Digest Educational Edition."
Contents - Words, games, and exercises include matching words with meanings (for a total of 800 words), juggling letters and double spellings to test knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, identifying meaning from context clues, "chess games with words," word analogies, historical analogies, and geographical analogies, study of word origins, and acrostics.
Remarks - These short practices could be used to supplement English studies, but lack of answers hinders effectiveness.

Science Research Associates, Inc.


Format - 224-page, paper-bound workbook.
Level - eighth grade reading level.
Purpose - "the student is led to develop his own skill as a word detective."
Contents - "The Word Program consists of fourteen chapters which are subdivided into four or five parts, each of which requires from fifteen to forty-five minutes of the student's time, depending on his reading speed and comprehension." Two tracks provide students with less background more practice while allowing better students to finish the course sooner. Programed answers are in a column to the left of the question on the same page. Chapters cover prefixes and suffixes, both generally and specifically, word families, Greek and Latin contributions to the language, and quantity words. Words are selected from Thorndike's 30,000 Words.
Special Features - Teacher's Manual, test booklet (mastery and diagnostic)
Remarks - The tracking which provides for various levels would be excellent for a multi-leveled classroom. Also this program could be used as remedial work in high school.

**Format** - Each kit contains one Teacher's Handbook, 150 Vocabu-builders, 90 of which are duplicates, 20 Explorawheels (all duplicates), 16 Key Booklets (all duplicates), one Student Record Book, and one phonograph record.

**Level** - Grades 7-9.

**Purpose** - "to be used as an aid in developing the skills and knowledge needed to acquire and use words for clearer, more interesting communication."

**Contents** - The starting level guide in the Student Record Book determines where each student should start in the lab while the phonograph record presents an audio introduction to the study of words in general and Vocabulab in particular. Vocabu-builders are four-page, illustrated booklets consisting of a reading selection and exercises. Each booklet is color-coded by level and each level contains selections on bringing people together, history makers, world of work, other people other lands, understanding self and others, the arts, science and invention, animals, language, and sports. Answers to exercises are provided in the key booklets and the Explorawheel, a three-level wheel device, enables students to put together word parts to form whole words.

**Special Features** - Teacher's Manual.

**Remarks** - The Explorawheel would be ideal to help students realize how words are made of parts.


**Format** - 96-page, paper-bound workbook.

**Level** - Grades 9-12.

**Purpose** - to help you (1) learn new words and (2) learn new ways to use words.

**Contents** - Section I following a vocabulary inventory concentrates on building the vocabulary through recognition of word parts such as roots and affixes, knowledge of synonyms, antonyms, and dictionary skills, and collection of new words on vocabulary cards. Section II introduces new words under general subject headings such as specialized words, foreign elements, connotations, informal language, and figurative language. Exercises are plentiful and involve defining words from context and from the dictionary.

**Special Features** - bibliography, appendix, vocabulary inventory, post-test.

**Remarks** - Attractive format including illustrations and active participation makes this workbook excellent as supplementary work in an academic ninth-grade class, in a slower twelfth grade class or in between.

Format - 122-page, paper-bound workbook with perforated pages.
Level - Grades 11 or 12.
Purpose - "designed to present an understanding of the problems involved in vocabulary improvement, to encourage an interest in words and word meanings, and to provide efficient tools . . . for effective vocabulary improvement."
Contents - Chapters are devoted to the importance of vocabulary, vocabulary cards, using the dictionary, definitions, cognate words, affixes and roots, context identification and active vocabulary. Frequent exercises require phonetic transcription, determination of meaning from context, and formation of sentences.
Special Features - brief reviews of most commonly used dictionaries.
Remarks - The vocabulary employed is that which would be needed primarily by college-bound students. Strong emphasis is given to further vocabulary development through reading.


Format - 262-page, pocket-size paperback.
Level - senior high school.
Purpose - "tell you why you will get ahead by acquiring a larger vocabulary and how to acquire one and have fun doing it in only 15 minutes a day."
Contents - This course, consisting of thirty fifteen-minute lessons, presents words in subject groups such as words about doctors and specialists, theories, phobias and manias, human traits and personalities, Latin derivatives, and French phrases. Three of the chapters are progress tests and several of the chapters discuss general aspects of vocabulary. Chapters contain numerous exercises with answers and meanings discovered deductively.
Special Features - index and pronunciation guide.
Remarks - This course is designed primarily for individual work in vocabulary improvement.
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III. Study Skills

American Guidance Service


Format - 58-page, pamphlet-type workbook programmed with answers directly below the question revealed through the use of a red, celluloid "key."

Level - junior high.

Purpose - "designed to help you develop methods of study that will increase both your speed of learning and the amount you learn when you study."

Contents - include a discussion of the PQRST study method, factors in effective study, ways to improve learning, habits that aid learning, and effective presentation of knowledge.

Special Features - pre-test and re-test, separate instructor's guide and cartoons to illustrate the points being made.

Remarks - Although the material is suitable for any level of junior or senior high school student, the format would probably relegate its use to the junior high level.

Baldridge Reading Instruction Materials, Inc.

Reading and Study Techniques for Academic Subjects. Greenwich, Conn.: Baldridge Reading Instruction Materials, Inc., 1966. (RC)


Level - senior high school.

Purpose - "to outline common study aims and define techniques which can assist in achieving them, describe the basic steps of each technique, and suggest ways in which application of each study technique will vary for several subjects."

Contents - Techniques, which include phrase reading, variable rate and purpose, self-pacing, paragraph analysis, newspaper reading, surveying, questioning, structure, annotating, reading notes, visualizing, inferring,
summarizing, relating and evaluating, and test taking, are explained in two or three pages, including the aim of the technique and its applications to history, math and science, language, and literature. No exercises are provided, but a technique application sheet and annotation work-sheet are provided as well as questions for self-evaluation.

**Special Features** - technique application sheet, annotation work-sheet.

**Remarks** - Although the techniques discussed apply to all grades, those students planning to go to college would probably benefit most from use of this manual.

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**The Mills Center**


*Format* - 80-page, paper-bound workbook.

*Level* - junior and senior school.

*Purpose* - "serve as a guide in motivating teenagers to study effectively and rewardingly."

*Contents* - In story form, this course follows Chuck, a typical teenager, as he learns the skills of effective studying, reading improvement, note taking, vocabulary improvement, the SQ3R study method, test taking, researching. Exercises and study questions are included with the story line and explanation of study skills is step-by-step.

**Special Features** - bibliography.

**Remarks** - Although the teenage slang is overdone at times, this book would appeal to teenagers and would probably provide greatest benefit in grades 8 through 10.

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**Science Research Associates, Inc.**


*Format* - 47-page pamphlet with illustrations.

*Level* - senior high school.

*Purpose* - to teach "the science of studying."

*Contents* - Explanations cover abilities and attitudes needed to get the most out of school, planning study time, facts about concentration, methods for getting the most out of textbooks, tips to help in learning a foreign language, and methods to improve class note and exam taking techniques.

**Special Features** - progress report.

**Remarks** - No exercises are provided but explanations are direct and clear.

Format - 40-page pamphlet with illustrations.
Level - junior high school.
Purpose - "When you decide for yourself that you want to improve, you have taken the first step. This booklet will help you take the next step. It will tell you how to get ready to study, how to get the job done, how to manage your time, and where to look for help when you need it."

Contents - Brief explanations cover studying wisely, scheduling study time, aspects of various subjects, how to look for when studying, tricks to aid concentration, types of reading, doing research papers, and taking tests. Material is entirely explanatory with no exercises.
Remarks - The attractive format and the direct approach to improving study habits would make this pamphlet appealing to students on an individual basis.


Format - 66-page workbook.
Level - junior high school.
Purpose - "to earn better marks in your studies and to have fun doing it."

Contents - Four parts discuss why it is important to study, how to set up good conditions for study, how to find information, how to organize information, and how to report information. Specifics include study habits check list, making a schedule for study, using the dictionary and the library, making an outline, taking notes in class, making a report and preparing for and taking a test. Chapters include exercises as well as explanations and examples.
Special Features - index, correct answers to exercises.
Remarks - Easy reading and clear explanations directly to the student would make this course attractive.


Format - 128-page workbook.
Level - senior high school.
Purpose - "show you the study skills that are essential to success and will help you master them."

Contents - Designed to serve as a 6 to 8 week unit in a regular high school course, this handbook covers in detail planning study time, the physical setting, the mastery technique of study including previewing, reading, note-taking, and mastery of details, helps to study, examinations, better listening and note-taking, and
vocabulary improvement. Chapters include exercises as well as explanation and are concluded with a chapter test and supplementary activities.

Special Features - teacher's manual.

Remarks - This book goes into great detail, but the reading level is applicable to many average or slightly below average readers.


Format - 96-page workbook with illustrations.
Level - Grades 7 through 9.
Purpose - "help you to study more effectively and to improve your work in all your school subjects."

Contents - Designed for six to eighteen weeks of study, this workbook presents how-to-do-it information on all the essential study and study-related abilities. Chapters 1-4 discuss the importance of effective study and the best methods for getting the most out of study. Chapters 5-8 discuss how to best listen, write, and read both general and special materials. Chapters 9-10 describe how to use sources of information and the library. Chapters 11-12 deal with how to take notes and make outlines, how to evaluate information, and how to think more clearly. Chapters 13-14 deal with how to best prepare for and take tests. In addition to explanatory material, exercises reinforce what the student learns.

Remarks - The summary approach would make this material helpful to junior high students.
SEE ALSO:

Herrick, Myron Q., Reading for Speed and Better Grades. • 8
(Dell Publishing Company)

Poquet, Le Von, and Foster, Inez, Study Exercises for
Developing Reading Skills. • • • • • • • • • • 20
(Laidlow Brothers)

Smith, Nila Banton, Be a Better Reader. • • • • • • • • 28
(Prentice-Hall)

Smith, Nila Banton, Be a Better Reader: Foundations. • 28
(Prentice-Hall)

Reading Skills File. • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • 31
(The Reading Laboratory)
Bibliography of Professional Materials Consulted


