

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 106 755

CS 001 775

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TITLE Literal Comprehension in the Content Areas:
Individualized Inservice Packet Number III. Teaching
Teen Reading Series.
INSTITUTION Ohio State Dept. of Education, Columbus.
PUB DATE 75
NOTE 32p.; See related documents CS 001 773-781
EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.76 HC-\$1.95 PLUS POSTAGE
DESCRIPTORS *Content Reading; Elementary Secondary Education;
*Inservice Teacher Education; *Reading Comprehension;
Reading Development; Reading Improvement; *Reading
Instruction; *Reading Material Selection; Recall
(Psychological); Teaching Techniques
IDENTIFIERS *Teaching Teen Reading Series

ABSTRACT

Consisting of nine individualized inservice packets, the Teaching Teen Reading Series describes reading procedures applicable to instruction in all subjects in the elementary, middle, and secondary school. The third packet provides teachers with information and instructional guidelines for assisting students to read for specific facts, literal comprehension being the first level of gaining meaning from the printed page. Techniques are suggested for instructing students in reading for specific facts and details, determining key words, recalling information, identifying and organizing information, recognizing cause-effect relationships, and following directions. A self-corrective posttest, a glossary of terms, and a bibliography are also included for use by the teacher.
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Literal Comprehension in the Content Areas



Individualized
Inservice
Packet
Number III



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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TEACHING TEEN READING SERIES

Ohio Department of Education
Columbus

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FOREWORD

The American dream of opportunity through education has been an inspiration and a reality to millions and millions. Equipping students with the skills of reading is fundamental to this essential contribution of our schools. It is well recognized that the ability to read and the active use of reading are cornerstones supporting the foundation of lifetime learning. Personal fulfillment, positive self-concept, participating citizenship, and meeting the demands of job and society are dependent upon effective reading.

All teachers are teachers of reading, individualizing and personalizing learning of all students on the ability spectrum. Without the acquisition of reading skills, the content of any subject area remains untapped and inaccessible between the covers of books. The students presently enrolled in our schools will live part of their lives in the 21st century. The need is to assure them of reading skills with which to cope with the rapid and ever-expanding stockpile of information and book-stored knowledge.

The Department of Education is the agency through which the Ohio General Assembly expresses its response to the will of the citizenry on matters of education. Reflective of this, legislation was enacted which made provision for the department to make available inservice materials and services for elementary and secondary school teachers. Hence, the Division of Educational Redesign and Renewal is responsible for the development of stand-free inservice education materials which may be used individually by teachers or by teacher leaders working together with small groups of colleagues. The materials are designed to give condensed professional information which will meet an instructional need or interest.

Because reading incorporates the principles of accountability for all teachers, **The Teaching Teen Reading Series** was prepared as a helpful resource for the teachers of upper elementary, middle and secondary schools. The content fuses with the use of any print materials supplied within the schools.

The post-Vietnam period offers an opportunity—and an imperative—to strive for excellence surpassing all prior achievements in our nation's scholastic history. It is our hope that these and other inservice materials will be beneficial to teacher endeavor toward achieving that excellence.

Martin W. Essey

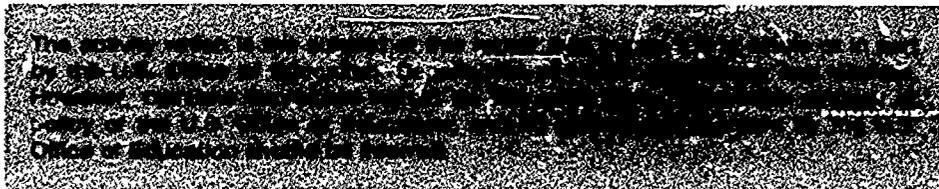
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The staff of the Division of Educational Redesign and Renewal expresses appreciation to the members of the teacher reaction panel for their critique of draft editions in terms of content, format, and practicality.

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Sr. Donna Capuano—St. Robert School, Euclid
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Keith Clark—Admiral King High School, Lorain
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CONTENTS

OBJECTIVE	7
To enable the teacher to instruct students to read for specific facts and details	
INSTRUCTIONAL CONCEPT	7
SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS WITH LEARNERS	
1. Locating information explicitly stated in the selection	8
2. Determining key words which trigger comprehension on the literal level	9
3. Recalling from memory information explicitly stated in the selection	10
4. Identifying a question on the literal level with learners	12
5. Organizing information into given categories with learners	13
6. Purpose setting by the student prior to reading as an aid to locating and recalling information explicitly stated in the selection	15
7. Matching and labeling	16
8. Utilizing multiple choice	18
9. Locating cause and effect	19
10. Recalling cause and effect relationships	20
11. Following directions	21
12. Developing literal skills through the use of puzzles	24
SELF-CORRECTIVE POST TEST	27
GLOSSARY	29
BIBLIOGRAPHY	30

INTRODUCTION

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

The purpose of this **Individualized Inservice Packet** is to give teachers information and instructional guidelines to assist students to read for specific facts. Literal comprehension is the first and less complex level of gaining meaning from the printed page. This reading skill is used to locate explicitly stated information. Interpretive comprehension follows in the developmental sequence (Packet IV).

This packet deals with a basic reading skill which applies to varied types of reading and to any subject area. The content does not refer to any particular print materials but may be used with the books, reference sets, periodicals and other resources already in use at the school.



LITERAL COMPREHENSION IN THE CONTENT AREAS

OBJECTIVE

To enable the teacher to instruct students to read for specific facts and details

INSTRUCTIONAL CONCEPT

Literal comprehension is the primary level of getting meaning from the printed page. It entails locating information for specific answers to factual questions. No interpretation of the facts is involved through the recognition of inherent relationships. Generally, word or sentence location is a simple endeavor and results in immediate rather than lasting recall.

Because some readers possess this level of functioning and the literal level is the foundation for the expansion of comprehension, it is one of the many uses of reading.

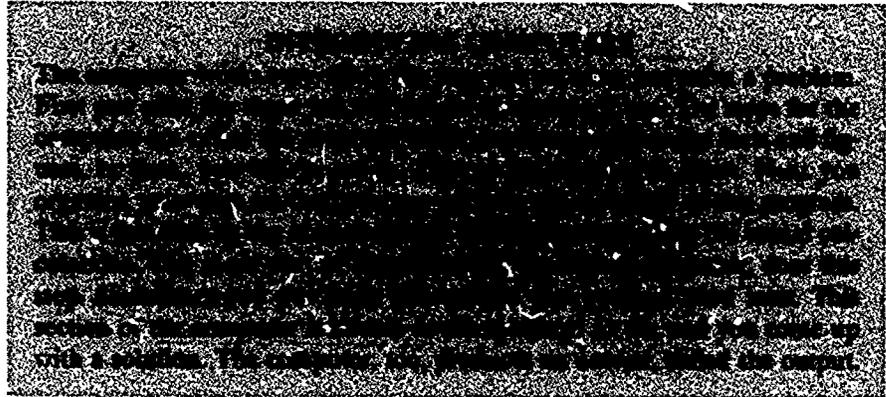
The literal level of comprehension focuses upon finding facts and detail in the content. It is a means to understanding.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

I LOCATING INFORMATION EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE SELECTION

The purpose is to teach the student to read for factual information. The learner needs knowledge obtained from facts through reading. Otherwise, his response will be based on chance.

Content Example—Mathematics



Excerpt *Those Amazing Computers Uses of Modern Thinking Machines* Melvin Berger (The John Day Company New York)

Suggested Teaching Tactic

- The learner's attention is directed to the facts and details of what he is reading. Through experience he comes to realize that literal information must be substantiated by explicit words or sentences. A **key tactic** for encouraging learner attention is **purpose setting**. He is directed to the specific cues necessary for discerning the facts and details.
 - Draw from the student what he knows about computers. List his ideas on the chalkboard.
Read silently to determine the answer.
What does a computer do?
- WHO? WHAT? WHEN?
WHERE?**
- Using the purpose setting formula, direct the student to make tally marks on a piece of paper under the appropriate question. These would repre-
 - The computer works very much the way you do when you solve problems.

sent the factual details in the selection.

- Provide the key words used in the selection. Direct the student to read to locate additional information.
 - Give the student factual questions to which he is to find specific answers. Initially, teacher guidance could be given through the provision of page, column, and paragraph where the answer can be located. The teacher determines those who continue to need this type of assistance.
- program central processor
input memory
output control unit
 - 1. Locate the word which means the steps of the computer's work.
2. What part of the computer does the actual calculation?
3. What is the computer's answer called?

**Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement**

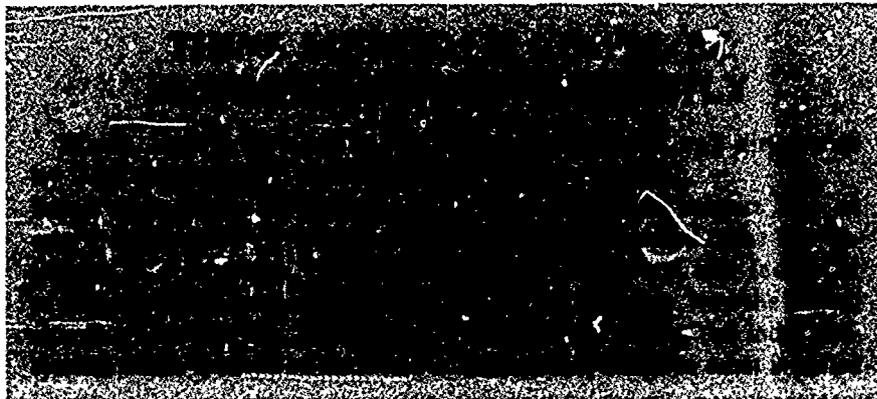
Given a short informative selection, the student locates the answers to factual questions. In response he uses the specific words of the author.

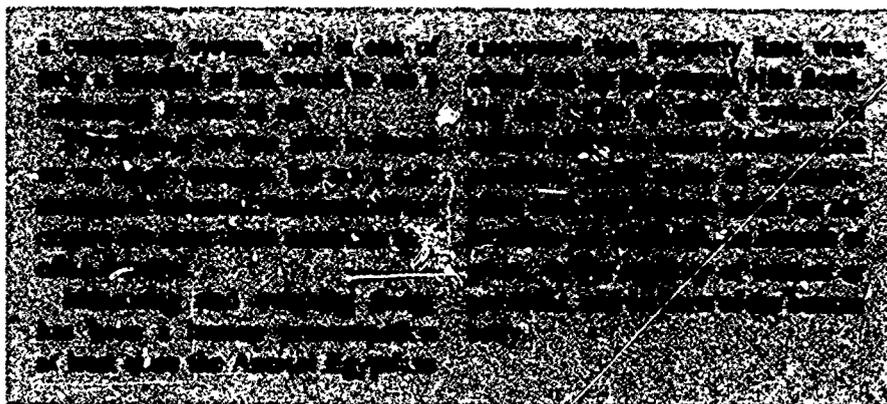
The criterion for mastery is 80 percent. The material should be appropriate to the reading ability of the student. If he is unable to read, the measurement may be changed to a listening task.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

2 DETERMINING KEY WORDS WHICH TRIGGER COMPREHENSION ON THE LITERAL LEVEL

Content Example—Current Events





Excerpt *The New York Times* (February 3, 1974)

Suggested Teaching Tactic

The teacher direction is for the student to circle the words which trigger the literal comprehension of the major points of a news article.

The teacher asks the student to reread and answer:

WHO?
WHAT?
WHERE?
WHEN?

Suggested Criterion Referenced Measurement

Given a selection, the student will identify those words or phrases which answer these key questions: **WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?**

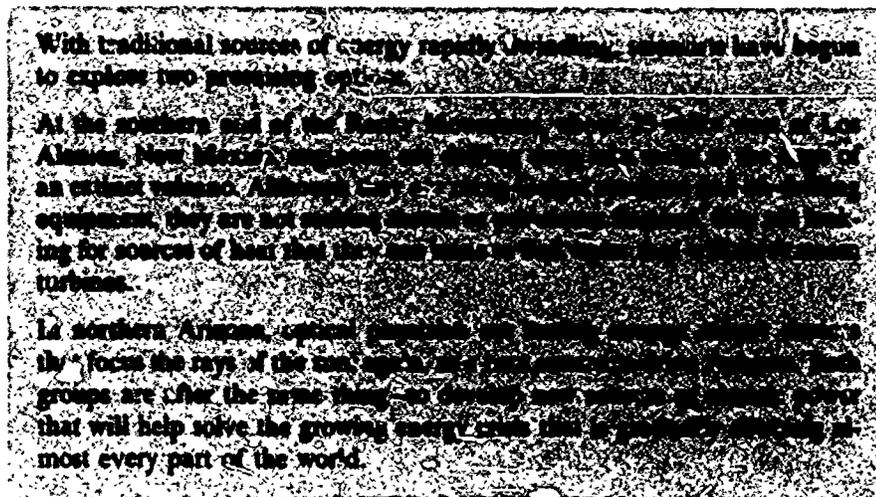
SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

3 RECALLING FROM MEMORY INFORMATION EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE SELECTION

Competence with the location of information precedes the development of recall skills.

Since recall is a memory task, the learner will remember best those things to which he is directed. The learner gains confidence through answering the key questions. Following his response he should be encouraged to return to the material to confirm his answer.

Content Example—Science



Excerpt: "The Power Above, The Power Below" John F. Henahan, *Science Year: The World Book Science Annual* (Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1973)

Suggested Teaching Tactic

- Using the purpose-setting formula, direct the student to read the selection. Following completion of the assigned reading, instruct the learner to provide **from memory** all possible details in each of the appropriate categories.
- Put the following questions on the board before the student reads the article:
 1. **Who** is drilling?
 2. **What** are they seeking?
 3. Does the article tell **when** the source of energy will be exhausted?
 4. **Where** is this extinct volcano?
- Prior to reading, give the student the key words used in the selection (Those **words** which answer the key questions. WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?) After reading, ask him to recall additional information related to the key words. Again, provide opportunities for self confirmation of responses.
- physicists
scientists
engineers
drilling
testing
southern Rocky Mountains
northern Arizona
turbines
- Give the student factual questions which are to be answered from memory following the reading assignment.
- Who is testing mirror devices? Where are they working? What are the engineers using?

Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement

Given a short informative selection, the learner recalls the answers to factual questions

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

4 IDENTIFYING A QUESTION ON THE LITERAL LEVEL

Content Example—Mathematics

Latitude and Longitude

Points on the earth's surface are located by ordered pairs of numbers. Since the earth is a sphere, a straight line cannot be drawn on its surface. A circle and a half circle are chosen as the axes. Do you know what these axes on the earth are called? The equator is the circle axis and is midway between the two poles; the half-circle axis, called the prime meridian, extends from the North Pole through the city of Greenwich, England, to the South Pole. Latitude is measured in degrees north and south from the equator, and longitude is measured in degrees east and west from the prime meridian. The maximum number of

World Map to
Northern Hemisphere



Figure 6.7

degrees of latitude is 90 and the maximum number of the degrees of longitude is 180. Any point on the earth can be located by specifying its latitude, north or south, and its longitude, east or west (two numbers and two directions).

The figure shown is a picture of a globe with solid lines marking off the total surface in two directions: the prime meridian running from north to south and the equator girding the globe east and west. The ship shown sailing the ocean would be at 30° west longitude, because it is 30° west of the prime meridian, and at 45° north latitude, because it is 45° north of the equator. If the captain of the ship radioed his position as latitude 45° north and longitude 30° west, could that position be other than the one shown in the illustration? Would the captain use an ordered pair? Can you locate the equator by giving its longitude and latitude? Explain. Locate point *x* (just off the tip of Florida) by giving its approximate latitude and longitude.

Notice that if we did not use the degree symbol and if we used plus and minus signs instead of the words "east," "west," "north," and "south," these coordinates would be much the same as the first ones we discussed. The essential difference is that we thought of our coordinates for city blocks as being on a flat surface; our present coordinates are on a sphere, which is curved.

Excerpt, *Mathematics: An Integrated Series, Book One*. Price, Peak, and Jones (Harcourt Brace and World, Inc., 1965).

Suggested Teaching Tactic

Literal questions can be answered by specific words or sentences. The teacher sets the purpose prior to silent reading, directing attention to facts and details. The student will locate and recall best those points previously identified through purpose setting cues

The teacher gives the purpose-setting formula before silent reading:

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Set reading purpose by directing the silent reading through the presentation of key questions:

On page 175, what names are given to the circle and half circle chosen as the earth's axes?

What is measured in degrees north and south from the equator?

What is measured in degrees east and west from the prime meridian?

Find the sentence on page 176 which tells how any point on the earth may be located. Copy it on your paper.

Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement

Given a short passage in which new terms are introduced along with their definitions the learner will supply the appropriate responses. The use of the key questions will determine whether the learner will recall or locate the term or its definition

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

5 ORGANIZING INFORMATION INTO GIVEN CATEGORIES

Content Example—Social Studies

Ohio	Vice President Tyler
War of 1812	Mexican War
Toledo region	Free Soilers
President Jackson	William Holmes McGuffey
Whig Party	1835
William Henry Harrison	after one month
Log Cabin Campaign	State House

Identify the nouns, verbs, and adjectives in the poem. Place them in their respective categories.

Nouns

Verbs

Adjectives

**Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement**

Given a passage of indeterminate length, the student will organize those words from the passage under the appropriate category headings. The words may be either provided or located by the student, according to teacher direction.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS



PURPOSE SETTING BY THE STUDENT PRIOR TO READING AS AN AID TO LOCATING AND RECALLING INFORMATION EXPLICITLY STATED IN THE SELECTION

Mastery of location and recall skills does not necessarily mean that the student is able to establish his own purposes before reading. The teacher provides guidance prior to silent reading by directing the student's attention to the WHO? WHAT? WHEN? and WHERE? in the content. This direction diminishes only when the student makes appropriate responses to the key questions independently.

The following activity may help students to realize the importance of key questions.

Content Example

A telegram is a good example of information conveyed through key points only:

**ART DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING STOP
SATURDAY NOON STOP MUSEUM COUNCIL
ROOM STOP**

Suggested Teaching Tactic

Ask the learner to set purposes for himself. He formulates his own questions prior to and while reading. Listing of these questions will help the student predict the factual input. After reading, he sees how many questions he is able to answer, how many facts were not stated, and how many facts he had not predicted.

Build literal questions using the key points provided in the telegram.

1. WHO?
2. WHAT?
3. WHEN?
4. WHERE?

Further development of this process involves building the information given into a paragraph which includes the key points.

**Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement**

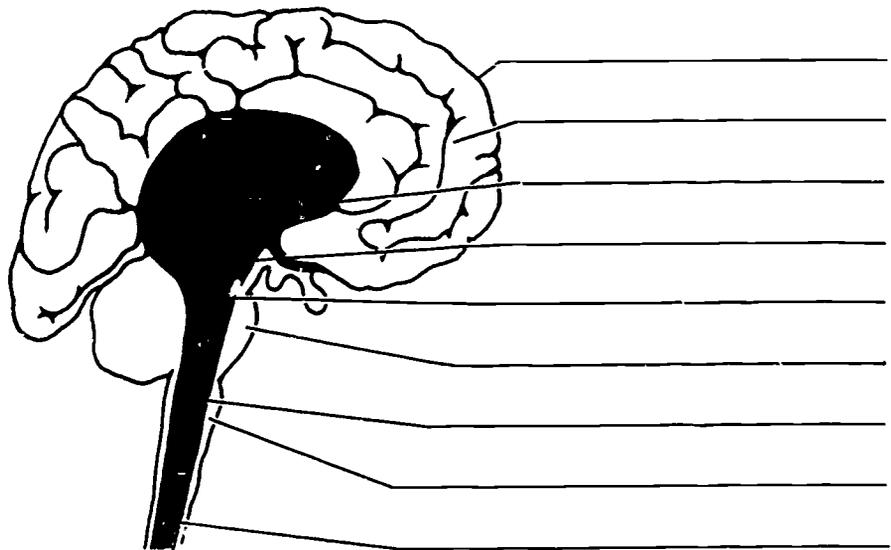
Given a selection, the student will survey and **construct** questions reflecting his **prediction** of the main points to be identified. Having read the material, the learner will then **answer** the questions

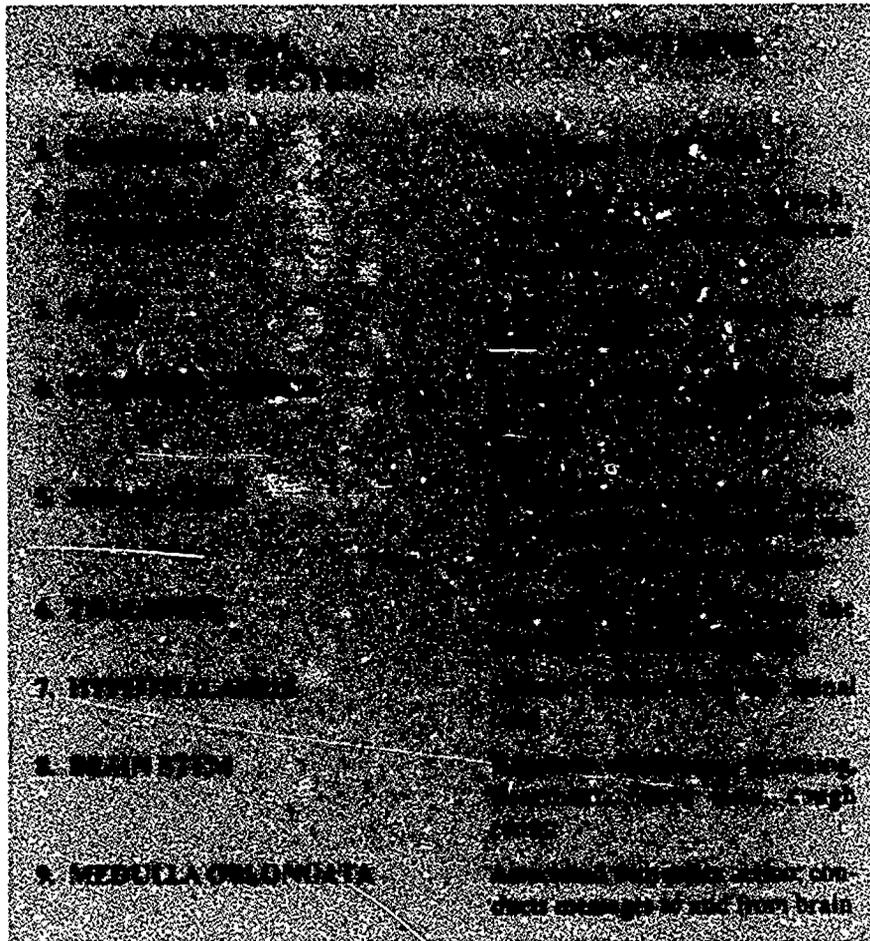
SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS



MATCHING AND LABELING

Content Example—Science





Excerpts *Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Human Behavior* Ohio Department of Education, Educational Research Council of America, 1973) 32

Suggested Teaching Tactic

Following the teaching of the vocabulary both for decoding and meaning and directed silent reading, direct students to match the **Central Nervous System Area** with its related function. (Match the area number with the appropriate function.)

Ask the student to label the drawing by using the names of **The Central Nervous System Area**.

Suggested Criterion Referenced Measurement

Given a list of terms and a list of their definitions, the student will match each term with its definition

Given a diagram and a list of terms, the student will label the area indicated with the appropriate term

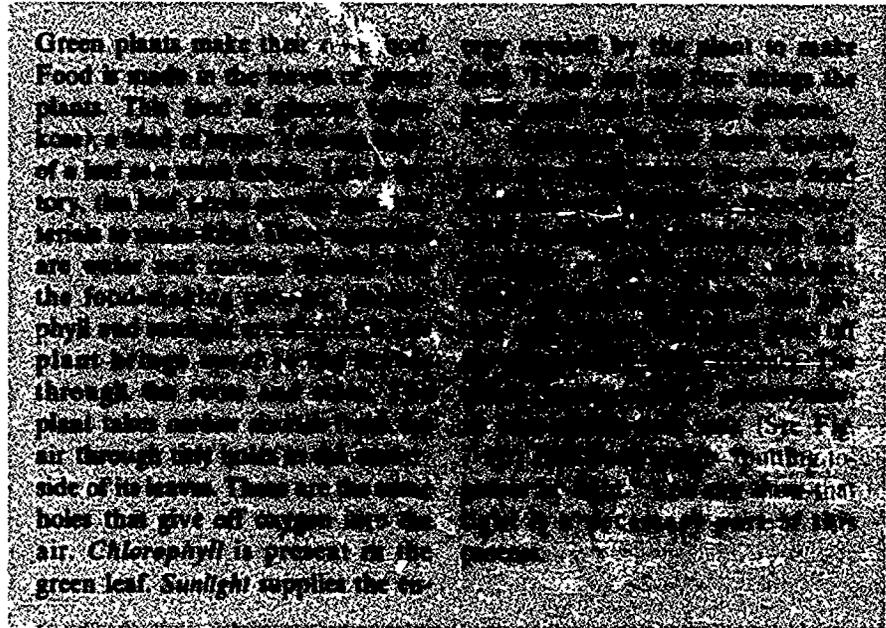
(These measurements may be done in conjunction with each other or separately.)

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS



UTILIZING MULTIPLE CHOICE

Content Example—Science



Excerpt *Science—Experiment and Discovery* Davis Burnett Gross and Prichard (Holt Rinehart and Winston 1969) 218-219

Suggested Teaching Tactic

Selection among multiples requires not only the location of key words but the understanding of meaning. Multiple choice is a learning activity which follows directed reading and thorough discussion of the content.

Direct the student to select one or more choices to complete the sentences.

1. To make glucose a plant must have
 - a. water, carbon dioxide, sand and sunlight
 - b. water, chlorophyll, soil and sunlight
 - c. water, carbon dioxide, chlorophyll and sunlight
 - d. water, carbon monoxide, chlorophyll and sunlight
 - e. water, sunlight, heat and soil
2. The food of green plants is made
 - a. in the leaves
 - b. in the root
 - c. under the bark
 - d. only in the buds
3. Photosynthesis is

- a. a waste product of the plant
- b. the process by which the plant changes water and carbon dioxide into glucose and oxygen
- c. the process by which new leaves are manufactured
- d. the process by which leaves collect the sun's rays

Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement

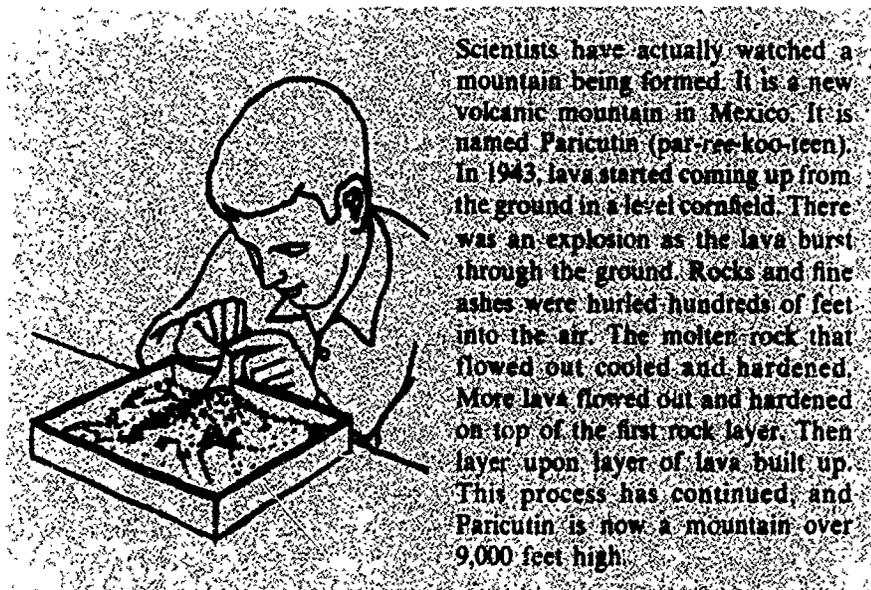
Given a series of multiple choice items, the learner will make those selections which will complete the measurement activity.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS



LOCATING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Content Example—Science



Scientists have actually watched a mountain being formed. It is a new volcanic mountain in Mexico. It is named Paricutin (par-ree-koo-teen). In 1943, lava started coming up from the ground in a level cornfield. There was an explosion as the lava burst through the ground. Rocks and fine ashes were hurled hundreds of feet into the air. The molten rock that flowed out cooled and hardened. More lava flowed out and hardened on top of the first rock layer. Then layer upon layer of lava built up. This process has continued, and Paricutin is now a mountain over 9,000 feet high.

Excerpt *Science 2 Experiment and Discovery* Davis, Burnett, Gross, and Prichard (Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1969), 181

Suggested Teaching Tactic

Following preparatory class discussion of cause and effect with many examples, introduce the vocabulary of key content words which trigger meaning and set the purposes for silent reading.

After class discussion of the content, ask the student to match the causes with the effects:

CAUSES	EFFECTS
explosion	new mountain
layers of lava	rocks hurled
Paricutin formed	scientists watching

Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement

Given stated causes and effects from a passage, the student will match each effect with its cause.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

10 RECALLING CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS

Content Example—History

GROWTH OF OHIO'S SCHOOLS

A longer time in school. A hundred years ago, Ohio had no law saying that children had to go to school. Free public schools were already in existence, as you read in Chapter 11. But a century ago it was left up to parents whether they would send their children to school, keep them at home doing farm chores, or send them into factories to work. And many families were so poor that they had great need of the scanty wages the children could earn in the factories. It was not until 1877 that the first school attendance law was passed. It said that children between eight and fourteen had to go to school for twelve weeks out of the year. But there were no truant officers then, nor was anyone punished for not obeying the law. So the law didn't do very much good.

For many years some factory owners fought compulsory education laws, because they counted on the cheap labor of school-age children. Nevertheless, in 1889 the legislature of Ohio passed a strict law on school attendance, providing for truant officers to see that the law was really carried out. Finally the Bing law of 1921 was passed, which provided that all children between six and eighteen had to be in school.

Not only must Ohio children go to school, but, as you know, the State must provide free tuition and free textbooks for all pupils in public schools.

But parents, if they wish to, are free to send children to private or parochial schools at their own expense. About one fifth of Ohio's children attend private or parochial schools.

Excerpt *Ohio Geography—History—Government* Carl H. Roberts (Laidlaw Brothers 1969)

Suggested Teaching Tactic

After vocabulary introduction and purposeful silent reading, ask for memory responses from the content. Teacher questions are directed toward securing recall of reasons stated in the narrative. Guidance is given by drawing attention to cause and effect clue words which may include **because, due to, therefore, on account of, since,** and the like.

Questions typical of cause and effect recall are

1. Why didn't the school attendance law of 1877 do very much good?
2. Why did some factory owners fight compulsory education laws?

Suggested Criterion Referenced Measurement

Given a passage containing stated cause and effect relationships, the student will identify either the cause or effect as requested.

SUGGESTED APPLICATION WITH LEARNERS

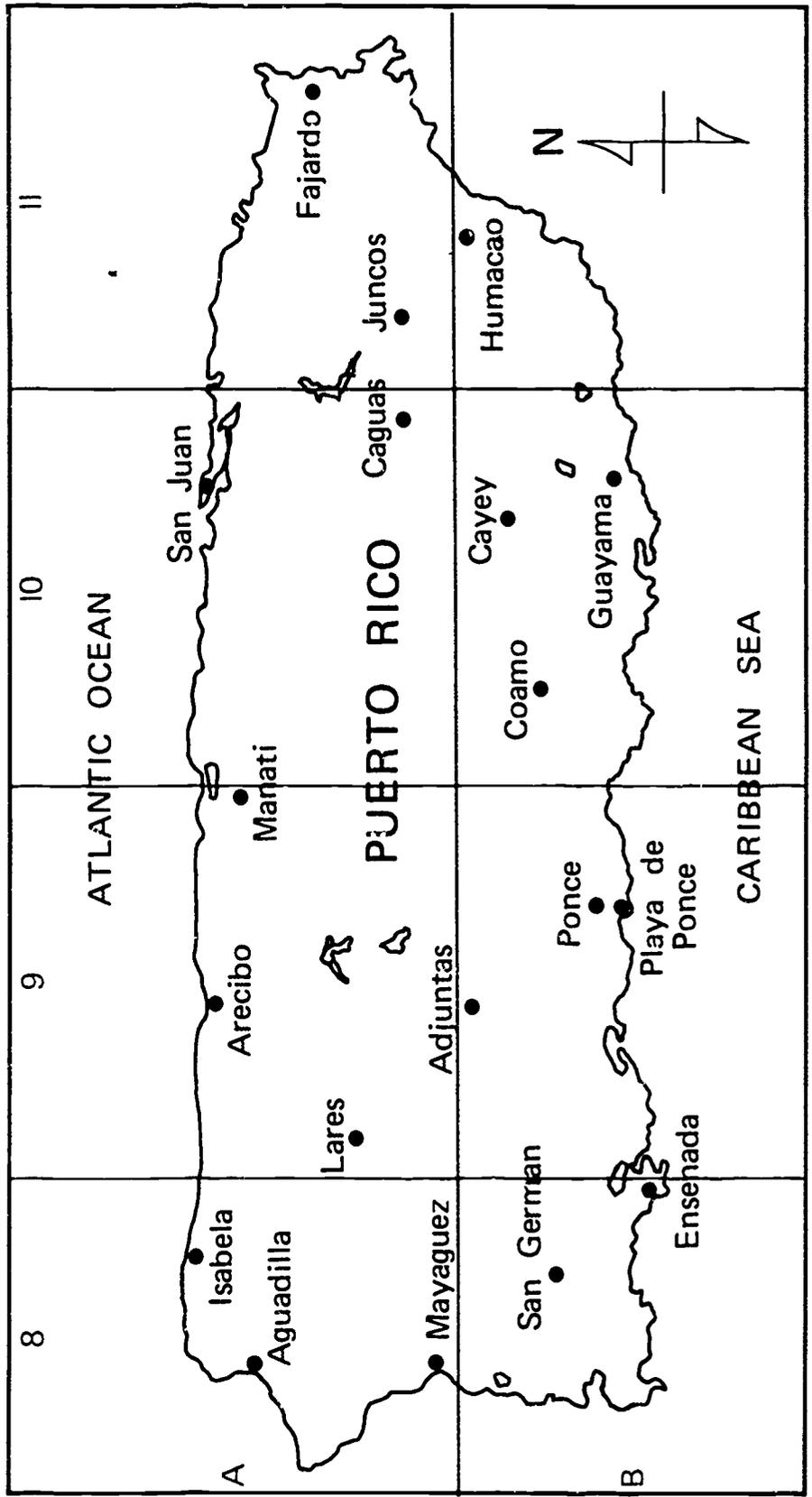
II FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Content Example—Mathematics

READING AND USING MAPS

On the map of Puerto Rico you will notice the numerals 8, 9, 10, and 11 across the top and the letters A and B along the side. Each of the indicated squares can be thought of as a "point." Each ordered pair, such as 9A, gives the location of one square. That square contains many cities and towns. We say that the coordinates of Arecibo are 9A. There are a number of other cities in the square. Locate Arecibo on the map.

Excerpt *Mathematics—An Integrated Series* Book One Price Peak and Jones (Harcourt, Brace and World 1965)



Suggested Teaching Tactic

Thoughtful teaching for using content to follow directions calls attention to relationships and to understanding the correspondence of their meaning.

Opportunities to learn this skill include demonstrating the use of an object, performing an experiment, drawing charts, classifying like and unlike substances, developing techniques for interviewing, making maps, and keeping records.

Teaching how to follow directions begins with one-step directions, and proceeds to those which will involve two steps. Then three or more steps may be introduced and finally directions for which the number of steps is not stated explicitly.

Teacher preparation includes selecting and formulating directions from the subject matter.

Extend the example of reading and using maps by giving directions similar to the following:

1. Locate the coordinates of each of these cities:

Ponce
Caguas
Ensenada
Humacao
Aguadilla
Playa de Ponce

2. Circle the city closest to:

Fajardo

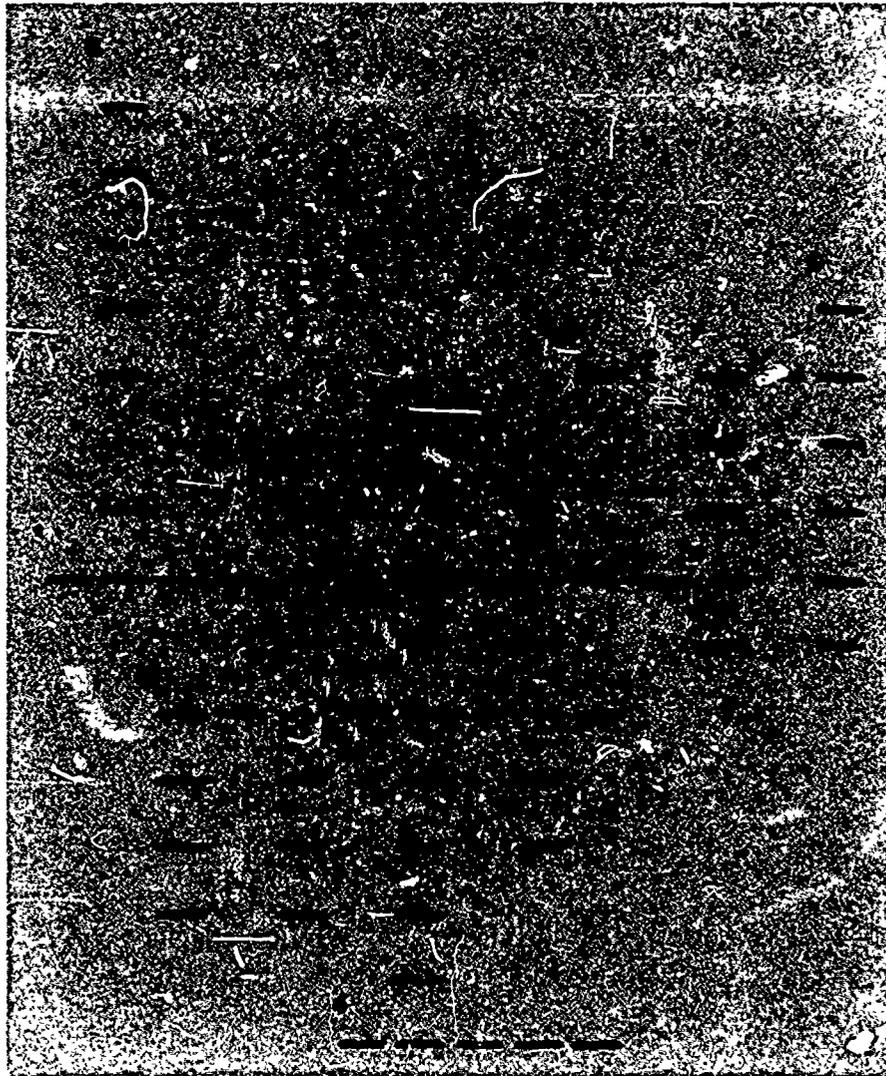
3. Make an X on the city that is between:

Manati
Isabela

4. Draw a line from Isabela to the city that is the farthest from Isabela within the square A-8. Then continue that line to each of the cities in the B squares that is the closest to the A squares.

**Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement**

Given a series of directions, the learner will follow them, his accuracy to be judged from the end product of his efforts.



Across:

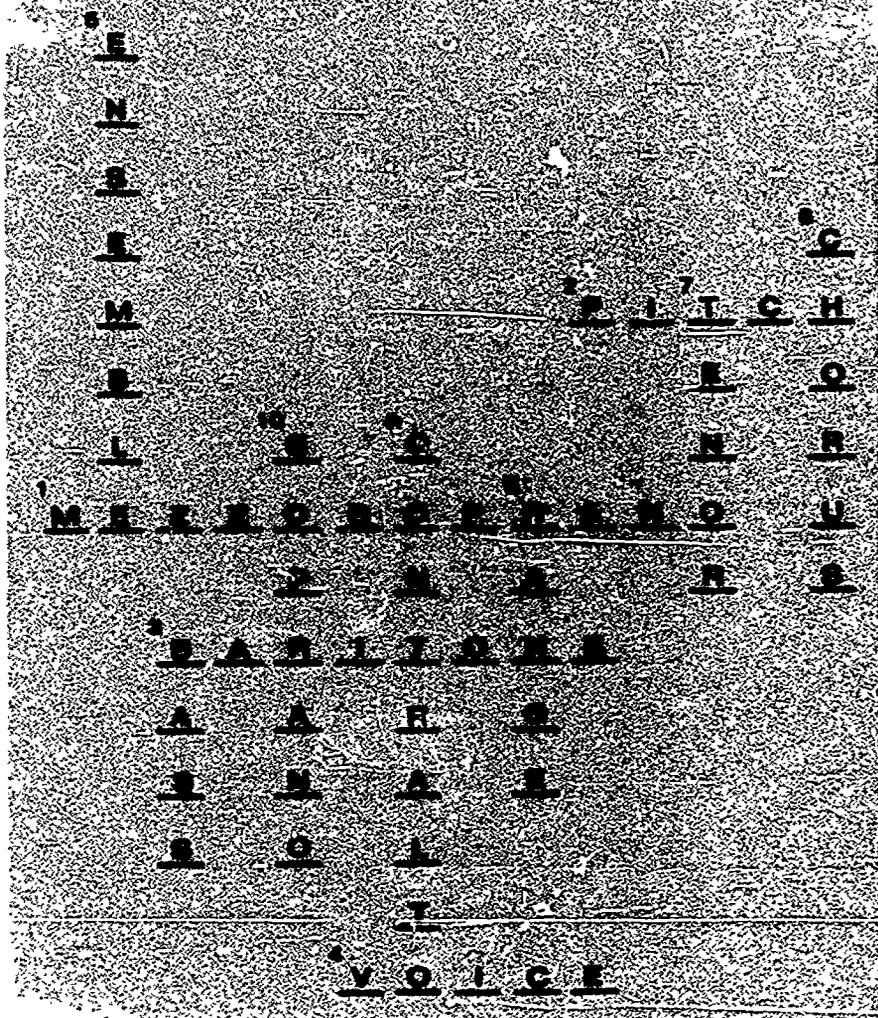
1. Female voice type—middle range
2. Human voices are capable of making a wide variety of
and tone color
3. Male voice type—middle range
4. "The human _____ was the first musical instrument."

Down:

3. Male voice type—low range
5. "writer for vocal solo or vocal _____"
6. "mixed _____ (SATB) "
7. Male voice type—high range
8. The singing voices _____ extends almost six octaves.
9. Female voice type—low range
10. Female voice type—high range

25

Answers



Suggested
Criterion
Referenced
Measurement

Given a teacher-made puzzle for a content selection, the student will locate specific facts to complete the puzzle.

Given a selection, the student will construct a puzzle using the key facts presented in the content material

SELF-CORRECTIVE POST TEST

1. Can you name four key questions which trigger literal comprehension?
Yes _____ Partially _____ No _____

2. Do you know how to identify questions on the literal level?
Yes _____ Partially _____ No _____

3. Are you able to construct meaningful questions on the literal level of comprehension?
Yes _____ Partially _____ No _____

4. Can you name six forms of literal comprehension?
Yes _____ Partially _____ No _____

5. Can you construct exercises using these different forms?
Yes _____ Partially _____ No _____

6. How many of these forms have you utilized in the teaching of your last content unit?

Increased competence with the meaningful use of literal comprehension can best be demonstrated through immediate application to your content area. Therefore, as you think in terms of your long range plans, select a unit of content yet to be taught. Utilize this opportunity for self-study and construct literal comprehension activities. Remember that these will be especially useful with those students whose current achievement is adequate only for this level. However, for all students, literal comprehension is the foundation for learning at higher levels.

The 2011 Commission on the Future of the Teaching Profession
of Teachers in the United States

GLOSSARY

Cause and effect clue words	those terms which call attention to related happenings within the content of the material because, due to, therefore, on account of, since
Cause and effect	happenings or actions related in that one produces the other
Contextual facts	circumstances which surround a word or passage and throw light upon its meaning
Criterion referenced measurement	evaluation based upon a standard of performance relative to a particular competence
Decoding	the translation of printed word back into speech since printed material can be thought of as speech written down
Directed silent reading	step two in the instructional cycle of reading. It is preceded by presenting background experiences and vocabulary development. Students read silently only after receiving direction through the purpose setting formula: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?
Factual questions	to ask students for that information which is stated in the material
Literal comprehension	the primary level of getting meaning from the printed page. It focuses upon locating and/or recalling facts and details in the content
Multiple choice	requires the understanding of key words as they are found in a particular context
Purpose setting formula	WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? a means of directing the learner's attention to the specific cues necessary for discerning the facts and details. This teaching tactic precedes directed silent reading
Recall	the teacher asks for memory responses on the content which are usually quickly learned and quickly forgotten

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COMPETENCY CRITERIA

The following characteristics of effective content-related reading instruction may serve as self-appraisal guidelines.

Students are enabled to gain information, knowledge, wisdom and enjoyment from reading, for my teaching procedures include:

- _____ Planning and tailoring my teaching to accommodate the wide range of reading strengths and weaknesses represented within the class.
- _____ Fusing reading with other components of language (listening, speaking, and writing) to reinforce meaning.
- _____ Relating the content to the varied experiential background of the students.
- _____ Encouraging students to react to the meaning of print content by thinking critically about it.
- _____ Utilizing many types of reading sources comprising multi-readability levels.
- _____ Teaching vocabulary and comprehension skills on various levels to assure that all students experience success.
- _____ Guiding silent reading through pre-reading preparation, vocabulary assistance, and skillful questioning.
- _____ Providing for varied uses of reading in problem solving, gaining information, and enjoyment.
- _____ Modeling positive attitudes for students by being a high interest reader myself.
- _____ Being committed to improve reading abilities and book interest within the class and school.