

TEST LESSONS
in
PRIMARY READING

Second Enlarged and Revised Edition

TEACHER'S MANUAL

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Amusing stories about a variety of familiar situations are written in a clear style using common, easily understood words. The stories have humorous aspects that add to reading enjoyment and provoke discussion. The ten Yes-No questions following each story aid in checking each learner's progress in reading and thinking skills.

SUGGESTIONS TO INSTRUCTOR: Give a book to each learner with her or his name on the bottom of the title page. Ask the learners to read the first story silently as many times as they wish, to read the questions carefully as many times as they wish, and to answer each question by drawing a line under either Yes or No. Move among the learners as they work to make sure they understand how to mark their answers, but give no other help.

When all have finished, ask those who underlined Yes for the first question to raise their hands. Do the same for those who underlined No. If there is disagreement, allow time for discussion and debate. Help the learners to arrive at the correct answer. Ask each learner who had the correct answer to draw a line beside the Yes-No on the other side of the perforations in the stub of the book. Continue in the same manner for the other questions on the page. Then ask each learner to count the number of lines (correct answers) on the stub and to write the total at the bottom of the stub.

Go back to the story and ask one of the learners to read it aloud. Discuss and/or dramatize it, enjoying its humor and relating it to personal experiences. Encourage the learners to think of events that might have happened before and after those recounted in the story. Ask questions to stimulate thinking. Help the learners to interpret, anticipate, infer, generalize, compare, speculate, find purposes, recognize cause and effect, discuss emotional reactions, and criticize aspects of the story. Question the learners about synonyms, antonyms, or multiple meanings of selected words from the stories. Examples of such questions are listed below.

Repeat the entire procedure for page two. Then have the learners tear out the page and take it home to get extra practice reading the story to relatives and asking and answering the questions.

You may vary the method of scoring the ten questions by having learners exchange books or by asking a helper or aide to correct them. You will want to inspect the books yourself from time to time to check the progress of each learner as recorded on the stubs that remain in the book after the pages are taken home. You may want to average the scores for each lesson and prepare a graph to show the progress of the group. Individual graphs could also be prepared, keeping in mind that many fluctuations should be expected. A general picture of progress may be seen by viewing the scores of ten or more lessons.