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MATERIALS FOR RELUCTANT UNDERACHIEVING ADOLESCENT STUDENTS

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In an endeavour to provide a handy guide to available materials for secondary-aged students, a two-part review has been collated. It is anticipated that the following specific needs will be met.

- i) The need for information about reading sets and series which are specifically designed for adolescent reluctant readers.
- ii) The need for information about readability and interest levels of particular sets and series.
- iii) The needs which are related to other details such as price, publishers, and the size of sets.

When contemplating the purchase of individual books or complete sets it is useful to keep in mind that there is a very broad spectrum of justification available.¹ No 'set' can provide a complete language program. Obviously language development is the product of an ever widening experiential base, only some of which is associated directly with literature. Nevertheless, books can provide a widening of experience through vicarious means. They may provide enjoyment, stimulation, satisfaction, knowledge, and contribute to the learning skills associated with reading. For these reasons, the following suggestions should be viewed as means whereby a wider language program may be supplemented.

The books which are suggested have characteristically adolescent topics and themes. Many have been utilized in Western Australian schools specifically with Aboriginal children, who have found them, in varying degrees, attractive, interesting and rewarding.

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¹ It is *important to realize that prices are variable*. Where prices are quoted in this article they should be regarded as approximations. Where specific prices were in fact obtained they were current at September 1980.

Part A titles represent selections from available reader kits which have been specifically designed as contributions towards a total language program. Readers may be taken for interest but the basis exists for extension and programming of a complete course of thematic language activities, as well as reading. Sections are generally correlated and reinforcement is a significant feature. Often material can be purchased separately or as a kit.

Part B refers to reading sets and kits which exist primarily as motivational, stimulus, and leisure materials. Many involve a progression from low to higher levels of readability or reading age. Most were specifically designed for the so-called "reluctant" reader and/or the under-achiever.

PART A.

- 1) Title: : *Action Books Libraries*
Publisher : Scholastic Books
Readability : 7 - 11 years
Interest : 12 - 17 years
Contains - 3 libraries (1, 2, 3) each containing four copies of five short (8,000-10,000 words) original novels, *sequentially graded*
- 50 skill/drill spirit masters
- Teachers' Guide, answer keys etc.
- Some stories have ethnic bias, brown faces, etc.
Price : Kit approximately \$50. Individual books approximately \$2.50
- 2) Title : *Oxford Colour Series*
Publisher : Oxford University Press
Readability : 5.5 - 8 years
Interest : 8 - 14 years
Contains - Six levels, each containing 6 titles
- Workbook
- Exercises for sight vocabulary and comprehension
- Teachers' Guide
Price : Each individual book, about \$1.50
- 3) Title : *Phoenix Reading Series*
Publisher : Prentice-Hall
Readability : 7.5 - 10 years
Interest : 10 - 16 years
Contains - Series in three levels A, B, C, each containing 5 titles

- Exercise book correlated with each title
 - Teachers' guide, comprehensive, sets of lesson plans etc.
 - Spirit duplicator masters
 - Test packages, etc.
 - All stories have ethnic bias
 - Price : Readers, \$1.75; Exercise Books, \$2.25; Teachers' Guide, \$11.95; Test Package, \$10.75
- 4) Title : *Sprint Libraries*
Publisher : Ashton
Readability : 7 - 8.5
Interest : 8 - 13
Contains - Over 20 titles. 3 libraries each containing 4 x 5 titles, Teachers' Guide, spirit duplicate masters
Price : Kit approx. \$35. Individual books, \$2.00
- 5) Title : *Top Flight Readers*
Publishers : Addison Wesley
Readability : 8 - 10 years
Interest : 12 - 18 years
Contains - Six fast-paced aviation stories
- Teachers' Manual. Also available Audio-visual Kit
- 6) Title : *Trend and Trendset*
Publishers : Cheshire
Readability : 6.5 - 11 years
Interest : 10 - 14 years
Contains : About 33 titles. Teacher's Manual. Also available Trend Basic Literacy Programs 1 and 2 (Trend is Australian).

PART B - SEE PAGE 24

Teachers wishing to implement a more exhaustive review of available resources might pursue the latest editions of:

Richardson, J.A., Caust, F.T. and Hart, J.A.: *Books for the Retarded Reader*. A.C.E.R. Melbourne, 1977.

Ridsdale, A.M.: *Guidelines for Effective Use of Developmental Reading Materials*. Heidelberg, 1976. (This accompanies two very comprehensive Developmental Reading Materials Charts compiled by Ridsdale and Munro, published by Oldmeadow).

Dominie School Centres of Australia: *Consolidation and Remedial Readers*. (This resource book can prove to be quite useful).

PART B

Set Title	Publisher	Readability (years)	Interest (years)	Price per book	Comment
Asterix		8+	8 - adult	\$2.00	About 15 available.
Banjo Books	Cassell	7 - 8	10 - 14	\$5.00	3 sets of 4 titles - choose carefully.
Bullseye Books	Hutchison	11+	14+	\$2.00	Adaptations of modern best sellers 30 titles.
City Kids	Nelson	6+	10+		
Club '75	MacMillan	8 - 11	10 - 15	\$2.50	18 titles.
Disco Books	Cassell	6	14 - 16	\$4.50	For very retarded readers.
Falcon Comics	MacMillan	8 - 9	10 - 16	\$1.00	3 series of 5 titles.
Flag Series	MacMillan	9 - 10½	12 - 17	\$2.00	32 titles.
Headlines	Arnold	8 - 10	10 - 16	\$2.40	8 titles.
Inswingers	Hulton Educational	8 - 9	12 - 16	\$4.00	Graded difficulty.
Jim Hunter Series	Methuen	7 - 11	11 - 14	\$2.00	Highly recommended by some teachers.
Knockouts	Longman	7 - 11	10 - 15		40 titles, some with audio cassette.
Patchwork Paperbacks	Cassell	8 - 9	10 - 14	\$2.00	Australian.
Pitman Best- sellers	Pitman	6½ - 8	13 - 18		30 titles + Teachers' Guide.
Popsingers	Hulton Educational	8 - 9	12 - 15	\$3.50	6 titles sequential.
Reading Incentive Scheme	Bowman	7½ - 9½	10 - 16	\$5.00	Also available in kits with Teachers' Guide, tapes and filmstrips.
Speed Swingers	Hulton	8½ - 9½	12 - 16	\$4.00	Based on motocross racing.
Topliners	MacMillan	10 - 12	14+	\$2.00	Over 50 titles.