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ABSTRACT

Intended for use by teachers who are seeking techniques for involving the reluctant reader, this resource booklet contains 29 teaching ideas that emphasize reading as a pleasurable activity. The ideas include games, multimedia activities, and writing exercises that focus on survival reading materials, newspapers, reference materials, vocabulary extension, and skill reinforcement. For each idea presented, the booklet includes a list of the materials needed, directions, and a statement of purpose. (FL)

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READING REMEDIES FOR INVOLVING THE RELUCTANT READER

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READING REMEDIES FOR INVOLVING THE RELUCTANT READER

It has been suggested that the capable reader who chooses not to read has no advantage over the person who is incapable of reading. This seems to aptly describe the reluctant reader and his/her involvement in reading, or more accurately lack of involvement.

Educators recognizing the importance of reading as a recreational activity for the individual, are constantly searching for additional strategies, methodologies and techniques to involve the reluctant reader. These educators are looking for ways to provide the students with pleasant and successful reading experiences which may result in the students' enjoying reading.

The participants in a special 1980 summer reading workshop, held at Lehigh University, devoted a considerable amount of time to develop a resource booklet for classroom teachers who deal with reluctant readers. Ideas included focus on: survival reading materials; newspapers; reference materials; vocabulary extension; and skill reinforcement through games, multi-media activities and writing.

It is our belief that this compilation will be of assistance to teachers who are seeking remedies for involving the reluctant reader.

Sheryl Joseph, Editor

Diane L. M. Wittig, Editor

NEWSPAPERS

TITLE Headlines Make News

DESCRIPTION Have students read excerpts from a newspaper. Make sure to delete the headline. Ask students to create an appropriate headline for the article.

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TITLE What Happened on Your Birthday?

MATERIALS Old newspapers, teacher-designed questions

DIRECTIONS Have student read newspaper from his/her birthdate. Questionnaire could ask questions such as - what was the weather? who were the politicians? what toys were popular? which were the popular movies?

PURPOSE Utilize newspaper and note changes in customs, activities, etc. from past to present.

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TITLE An Evening Out for Dinner

MATERIALS Newspaper, paper and glue

DIRECTIONS Using the newspaper, find advertisements of places that are advertising menu specials. Pick a place and meal that you would enjoy most. Cut it out of the paper and glue your choice to a piece of paper. Make sure to include an appetizer, main dish, and dessert.

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TITLE Entertainment

MATERIALS Newspaper, scissors, paper, and glue

DIRECTIONS Have students bring in the entertainment section of a newspaper. Explain to them that they are to be the social director for a weekend. Have them pick shows and other interesting things to do over the weekend. Have them glue these on paper after cutting them out of the paper.

TITLE Careers

MATERIALS Directions for giving a perm, comprehension questions, paper

DIRECTIONS The student is asked to read the directions on giving a perm. They would then be asked to demonstrate their ability to give a perm by answering teacher-made questions and giving a perm to a doll or a wig.

COMMENTS This particular activity can be adjusted to any career the student is interested in learning more about.

TIME 2-3 periods

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REFERENCE SKILLS

TITLE Look It Up

MATERIALS Book of Lists (other record books)
Teacher-made questionnaire

DIRECTIONS Make questions which indicate the student's ability to use this reference book. i.e. On what page does topic x begin? What topic begins on page 36? What is the largest, the most, the oldest x? Be sure to use an item which measures cross-referencing.

PURPOSE Utilize reference materials.

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TITLE What Kind of Toy?

MATERIALS Library trade books

DIRECTIONS Have students look up what kinds of toys were available in the 1860's and how they were made (spoon dolls, apple dolls, cornhusk dolls, rocking horse, etc.). Student then has one of two options.
1. Write instructions for how to make two toys or
2. Make a toy.

PURPOSE Research skills, sequencing, production

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TITLE I See What I Read

MATERIALS House classified ads

PROCEDURE Student draws or paints an illustration of a classified house ad.
Discusses missing elements.
Writes concise ads himself.

VARIATION Use other classified ads.

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TITLE Cartoonery

MATERIALS Comic books, comic section

PROCEDURE Remove words from several comic strips.
Student supplies the dialogue.
Students share comics with one another.
Read orally or silently.

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TITLE TV-rama

MATERIALS Television guide
Teacher questionnaire
TV set

DIRECTIONS Make questions which: indicate that student can adequately utilize guide; require student to watch program in order to answer questions; require student to evaluate - ex. based on what you saw on this program, would you watch it again? Why or why not?

PURPOSE Utilize TV guide.

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TITLE What a Bargain!

MATERIALS Newspaper

PROCEDURE Using an ad in the newspaper as a model, student constructs an ad selling himself. If student has difficulty, he makes a list of good points on a sheet of paper.

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TITLE Supermarket Shopper

MATERIALS Newspaper

PROCEDURE Student reads and collects several articles on economy-minded buying. Practices smart buying by spending an imaginary amount of money. Buys items from the newspaper ads. Compares choices with teacher and class.

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TITLE Four Basic Food Groups

MATERIALS Newspaper, magazines

PROCEDURE Students develop a notebook. Four headings (four basic food groups). Paste newspaper or magazine pictures under the headlines. Use headline letters to identify food stuffs.

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TITLE Greeting Card

MATERIALS Construction paper, markers, newspaper

PROCEDURE Student uses newspaper elements to design a greeting card for a special occasion or a special friend.

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TITLE Photo I.D.

MATERIALS Newspapers, magazines

PROCEDURE Ask students to select pictures of people from magazines or newspapers.
Name the emotion on their faces.
Write a paragraph about a type of situation which might have influenced the mood of one of the persons in the photos.

VARIATION Student reads paragraph.
Class guesses emotion.
Student shows picture to the class.

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TITLE Me Collage

MATERIALS Newspaper, magazines

PROCEDURE Using headline illustrations, photos, ads, illustrations, child constructs collage that accurately describe him.
Teacher randomly collects projects.
Shows to class.
Class tries to guess who the person is that the collage depicts.

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TITLE Silly Sentences

MATERIALS Newspaper

PROCEDURE Student cuts out headline words that will complete the sentences. The answers may be silly or serious but they must be true.
i.e. I wish grown-ups would.....
When I make a mistake, I.....
Our home is.....
I can't understand why.....
My favorite place.....

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TITLE Cartoon Sequence

MATERIALS Newspaper cartoons mounted on cardboard, laminated, if possible.
Correct sequence recorded on back of card.
Envelope to hold set of cards.

DESCRIPTION Cartoon title on envelope leads to student choice. Student looks at pictures and sequences them.

An extension of this activity is to have children write or tell orally what may happen next.

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TITLE Comics Promote Reading

DESCRIPTION Have students choose their favorite comic strip and bring it in to class. Cut up the comic strip into frames. Have students mount frames on cardboard creating a puzzle.

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SURVIVAL READING SKILLS

TITLE Cereal Boxes

MATERIALS Empty cereal boxes, pencil and paper

DESCRIPTION Examine the different kinds of cereal boxes.

1. Which cereal would a person buy if he were trying to lose weight?
2. Write a story using only the words on one of the boxes.
3. Find all the three-syllable words on all the boxes.

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TITLE Labels Can Make a Difference

DESCRIPTION Have students bring in various types of labels from packages. Spend some time examining the various components of a label. Create an advertising campaign by asking students to design a label which is more appealing than the current labels on the market.

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TITLE Menu Man

MATERIALS Several menus from area restaurants.
Large picture of man with menu on stomach.
Numbered answer keys to match questions.

DESCRIPTION Use menu to ask questions about lunch or dinner selections. Nutrition can also be reinforced as well. Laminated questions can be marked and checked quickly by student or teacher.

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TITLE Telephone Director

MATERIALS Telephone books
Student-suggested problems or questions

DESCRIPTION As a group activity, students working together learn how to locate names, addresses, and telephone numbers to solve questions encountered daily. Some examples include pet suppliers, bike repairs, movie theatres.

This activity also uses synonyms when looking for alternate listings.

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TITLE Getting from Here to There by Map

MATERIALS Map (county, state, or United States)
Teacher-made question sheet

DIRECTIONS Choose a starting city and a finishing city for the car ride.
Ask questions which indicate the student can utilize the legend and the symbols; plot a direct course, etc.

PURPOSE Interpret maps

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TITLE Shopping by Catalog

MATERIALS Catalog with accompanying order form
Teacher-made activity card

DIRECTIONS Teacher-made activity card lists situation (going camping, buying stereo equipment, etc.) and amount of money student may spend.
Student then "shops" and fills out order form.

PURPOSE Fill out order blanks - as well as budget.

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TITLE Bookworm

MATERIALS Construction paper, scissors, and marker

DIRECTIONS As students read books, have them make a section of the bookworm with the title and author of their book. The teacher will start the bookworm by making the head out of construction paper and placing on the wall of the classroom. Students then continue with sections of the worm. By the end of the year, the worm will probably be around the room at least once--maybe twice.

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TITLE Lost and Found

MATERIALS Newspaper

PROCEDURE Read lost and found article.
Student makes up story behind the ad.
Writes or uses tape recorder.
Student pretends he is the animal or thing lost.
Class tries to guess what it is.

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TITLE A New Look at Book Reports

DESCRIPTION Instead of asking students to do a standard book report, have students place want ads which reflect the characters in the story. Students have been too conditioned by the constant requirement of book reports. Reading for pleasure should not always have a catch.

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TITLE One Picture Equals a Thousand Words

MATERIALS A story, magazines, construction paper, paste

DIRECTIONS Have the students read an assigned story. When the student is finished reading, cut pictures from magazines that depict the setting, the characters and any other highlights of the story. Order these pictures so the story can be told at a glance, then have the students paste their pictures in order on construction paper.

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