

Note to teachers

Creative Comprehension for Elementary Schools is a four-level comprehension series that contains a variety of passages for elementary English classes. The passages cover a wide variety of topics that appeal to young learners and are designed to make reading an enjoyable experience. These passages are exploited with a range of exercise types that focus on the development of reading and writing skills at the elementary level.

Pre-reading

It is recommended that teachers use the illustrations at the beginning of most units as a means of preparing pupils for the topic. These illustrations can be used to generate interest in the topic and present any new vocabulary or required structures through prediction, discussion and vocabulary development work.

Reading passages

This series presents a wide range of text types that enable pupils to understand the differences between texts for different purposes. The passages also introduce a range of interesting topics that will expand pupils' vocabulary and knowledge in key areas.

Each book in the series includes passages about the same primary school children and their families, which allows pupils to follow the stories of a group of relevant characters. Pupils will relate strongly to these characters and be exposed to relevant situations that are dealt with appropriately. Other passages introduce stimulating topics that are of interest to primary pupils.

It is beneficial to use a variety of approaches to reading the passages, such as individual silent reading, reading aloud, listening to the teacher, and reading and discussion in groups. This assists in

maintaining interest and encouraging pupils to perceive reading as a positive experience.

As far as possible, pupils should be encouraged to use context to guess the meaning of unknown vocabulary. At times teachers may wish to pre-teach key words before reading commences.

Exercises

A wide variety of comprehension, vocabulary and writing exercises is presented. They follow a logical progression and promote the development of crucial reading and writing skills.

Pupils are required to demonstrate basic understanding of the passage with short answer comprehension questions. This develops skimming skills, or reading for general understanding. More detailed comprehension is then developed through questions requiring longer answers that focus on specific aspects of the text.

Specific exercises have been designed to expand pupils' vocabulary and develop their vocabulary building skills.

The writing exercises are designed to exploit and develop the genre presented in the passage by focusing on structures that are relevant to the topic. Pupils are exposed to these structures through exercises ranging from sentence completion and simple sentence construction to the ordering of sentences to form a coherent text and text completion. Illustrations are used to provide valuable support in writing and composition exercises, which in turn helps motivate the pupil. Exercises are logically graded and models are provided.

A variety of approaches is recommended as the exercises can be used individually or in pair or group situations. This will stimulate interest and motivation, and allow for meaningful discussion.