

**MOPSY** by GLADYS PARKER

THIS BOOK IS SO EXCITING THE AUTHOR LEFT SOME BLANK PAGES IN THE MIDDLE SO THE READER CAN CATCH HIS BREATH!



GLADYS PARKER

3-4-48

**Special Training Given To Non-Reading Students**

Three experts in Reading Techniques, Mrs. Edna Wright, Mrs. Floy Boland, and Mrs. Ruby Clere, of the Fern Avenue School, have been busily engaged in giving individual reading instruction to non-readers or delayed readers. Their excellent work is beginning to show fine results.

Children are selected for this special type of instruction by their regular classroom teachers. Those children who are not reading up to grade-level and whom it is felt will profit from the individual help are sent to these special teachers for forty minutes per day. Attendance in the classes is optional with the pupils. No one is required to attend unless they are vitally interested in improving their reading ability.

The purposes of the reading classes are: (1) To give confidence to the child who is discouraged; (2) To build and speed-up sight vocabulary; (3) To teach the child to pronounce words independently; (4) To teach meanings and comparisons; (5) To develop interest in reading for pleasure; (6) To develop sentence reading rather than word-calling.

Some techniques used by Mrs. Wright are: having the pupils draw safety signs, traffic signs, and food labels such as those found in the grocery stores. She is developing interest by using a variety of materials such as word games, actual construction of objects and working with word puzzles.

Mrs. Boland has some interesting techniques in her class. One is "The News Scrapbook." Each article which the pupil has clipped from a newspaper or magazine must be read with a certain degree of success before posting it in the scrapbook. One measure of success is pronouncing and defining the new words as well as good oral reading. This class is working especially to increase eye-span with much stress on phrasing. Games with words are played and at the present time the group of nine children are working on a play, "Mr. Webster's Store." This play has for its setting a store in which words are given away. The child may trade worn out words for new ones—thus, they have fun as they learn.

According to Mrs. Clere, her group has adopted a slogan, "Reading is Fun." Boys and girls in this group who cannot read well by the time they reach the fifth grade often need special attention. Lack of success in learning to read may be attributed to the fact that the pupil feels no desire to read. The first thing the Remedial Reading teacher tries to do is to kindle and foster a desire to read. With proper guidance the pupil will become interested and soon express an eagerness to become a good reader.

The Remedial Reading pupils experience the thrill of success, even during the first lesson as they discuss their interests and decide what they would like to read. One pupil wants to read science stories. Another wants to read about horses, and another expresses a wish to read favorite stories, such as "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Easy reading material is selected with a vocabulary about two grades below the level of the one in which the pupil is placed. This enables him to build up a basic vocabulary of sight words.

The pupils search the newspapers and magazines for stories they can read. These are read to the class and are then pasted in a book, making a "Class Story Book."

Each pupil is given individual instruction best suited to his needs during every Remedial Reading Lesson. He is given generous praise for his effort and attainment. The building of respect for his own ability to read is of prime importance to the pupil in a Remedial Reading class.

The lack of secondary markets for mortgage loans is becoming an increasingly serious stalemate to housing construction by the medium and lower income groups who are dependent upon this form of financial assistance to meet the expense of buying a new home, according to Vern Huck, president of the Building Contractors Association of California.

He reported that lending institutions all over the nation are becoming increasingly selective in the issuance of construction loans. Thus far Southern California has not been hit nearly as hard as other areas of the United States, he declared, but the trend is being followed in this area and the most serious problem involves GI loans.

Huck disclosed that many Congressmen have recognized the serious disadvantage this trend places on the efforts of the building industry to overcome the tremendous need for housing by members of these income groups and have introduced or will introduce bills which would eliminate this difficulty.

**TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Railroad traffic remains heavy, although the conversion from steam to diesel trains will result in the release of workers, including repair and maintenance men and trainmen.

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