
January 1974

The Trading Post

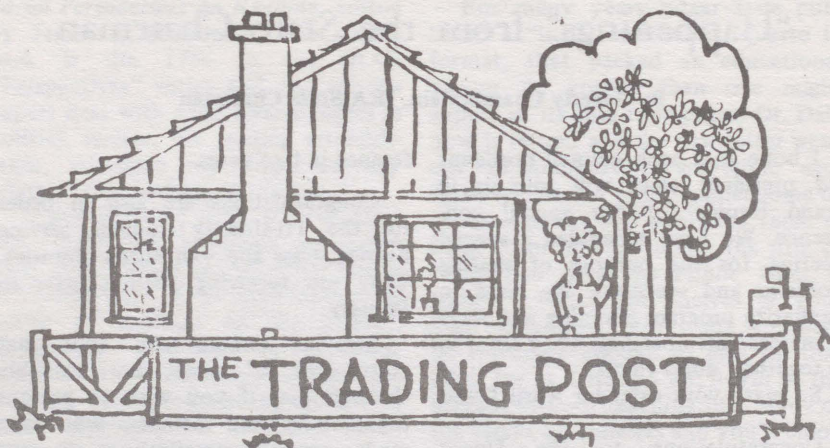
Michigan Reading Journal

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Recommended Citation

Journal, Michigan Reading (1974) "The Trading Post," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 8: Iss. 1, Article 8.
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol8/iss1/8>

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Representatives of the various Reading Councils who met with the MRA Executive Board at Traverse City read their plans for the school year. In addition to having outstanding authorities on reading speak at their seminars, many councils were having displays of teacher-made materials and commercial displays by book companies. It was interesting to note that several local councils were making use of local talent, teachers and specialists who were working with children every day.

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How about suggesting a program on reading to your local TV or radio station? Mrs. Marge Van Wyke, Reading Consultant in Holland, was asked to do a weekly program on one of Holland's radio stations. Her program is for parents and gives advice to them on how they can help their children to become better readers.

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Mary Ellen Bentley and Gladys Martineau of Redford Union have compiled a booklet of vocabulary games for Language Arts and other content subjects. Teachers at the junior highs particularly have found these helpful.

* * *

Secondary teachers often feel that their students are too sophisticated to

play reading games. *Listening Games*, a publication printed by *Grade Teacher* has a whole section devoted to "Games which Challenge Top Intellectuals" which could be used in secondary classes.

Two of these are:

Get the Idea

Purpose: To listen for the main idea of a paragraph.

Players: Small group or class.

Materials: Selections from any of these sources: (1) stories from such school publications as the *Reader's Digest Skill Builders*; (2) newspapers and magazines; (3) textbooks in the content subjects; paper and pencil for each player.

Directions: The teacher or pupil reads a paragraph from a selection while the players listen for the main idea of that paragraph. Then each player writes the main idea in his own words in a sentence on his paper. After several paragraphs have been read and the players have written the main ideas for each, the player who has the greatest number of best answers is the winner.

Adaptations: (1) The players may write titles for the paragraphs. (2) The titles may also be expressed as headlines. (3) The players write the one main idea of several paragraphs.

Cautions: The paragraphs which are

selected should contain definite main ideas.

Super Secretary

Purpose: To listen carefully in order to take dictation without error.

Players: Two teams of four to eight players each.

Materials: Chalkboard and chalk; list of sentences to dictate.

Directions: The players are urged to listen intently in order to remember the complete sentence. The teacher or leader dictates a sentence to the first player of each team who writes it on the board. The player who has it correct or most nearly correct earns a point for his team. The sentences are checked for (1) accuracy (in terms of correct wording), (2) spelling, and (3) punctuation. If both players have it correct, both teams get a point. The next two players come to the chalk-

board and the game continues until all players have been to the board.

Adaptations: (1) Two points could be given for accuracy, one for spelling, and one for punctuation. (2) As skill develops, a short paragraph could be dictated. (3) Children may write the sentences at their desks for additional practice in listening to dictation.

Cautions: (1) The leader must speak clearly and distinctly, with the sentence dictated only once. (2) A reasonable time limit should be set for the completion of each turn. (3) Legible writing and not speed should be stressed.

Send your contributions for "The Trading Post" to:

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Remember . . .

MRA CONFERENCE

March 31, April 1 & 2

GRAND RAPIDS