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THRUSTS IN READING: SYSTEMS VS. HUMANISM 1972 CONFERENCE

by Kenneth L. Carlson
Program Chairman

The 1972 Michigan Reading Association Conference will again be held in Grand Rapids. The conference will take place on April 9, 10 and 11.

The theme of this year's conference is "Thrusts in Reading: Systems vs. Humanism." The purpose of the 1972 Michigan Reading Association Conference is to explore the place of humanism in today's reading systems.

Teachers of reading are being confronted by the seemingly opposing philosophies of the open classroom on the one hand and systems approaches on the other. In these days, educators are expected to be measurably accountable for the academic progress of the students they teach.

Must they choose one of these philosophies? Are they irreconcilable philosophies? Can teachers of reading combine the best of the open classroom and system approaches to reap the benefits of both? These questions will be explored by the conference speakers.

As in the past, the Michigan Reading Association Conference will feature several outstanding personalities in the fields of reading, children's literature and curriculum. The speaker at the Monday luncheon meeting will be Dr. Jo Stanfield of Occidental College in Los Angeles. Dr. Ted Harris, the president of the

International Reading Association, will be featured at the Monday dinner meeting. Dr. Ethna Reid, director of the Exemplary Center for Reading Instruction in Salt Lake City, will speak at the Tuesday luncheon meeting.

The speakers at the general meetings of the conference include: Dr. Joseph Hill of Oakland Community College, Dr. Hughes Moir of the University of Toledo, Dr. Kenneth S. Goodman of Wayne State University, Dr. Jean M. Le Pere of Michigan State University, Dr. Elmer H. Vrugink of the Grand Rapids Public Schools and Dr. Roy Butz of Oakland Schools.

Sectional meetings will, as usual, feature reading specialists, administrators, classroom teachers and university professors.

The symposia part of the conference will be expanded this year. Tentative symposia topics are: *Early Childhood, Performance Contracting, Adult Basic Education, College Teaching of Reading, Activity Centered Classrooms, Secondary Reading Programs and Multi-disciplinary Approach to Diagnosis.*

All in all, it would seem that the 1972 conference will be filled with timely topics and ideas worth pondering.