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Main Ideas and Important Details

by Hal Cafone & Ronald Cramer

George Orwell's 1984 attempted to use trends existing at the time of his writing to predict life on this planet in the future. *Educational Futurism 1985* is not an Orwellian sequel, but the same technique has been used by a committee of the National Conference of Professors of Educational Administration in writing this recent book. (1971, McClutchen Publishing Corporation) No doubt you will be pleased to know that, "It is highly improbable that by 1985 chemical gases will be released through school ventilating systems to keep pupils and teachers, with or without their knowledge, alert during formal school sessions." Nor is it likely that "...school food services will be used as part of an overall instructional strategy to 'season' hot lunches with 'get smart' chemical substances, such as metrozol-related compounds, to improve educational efficiency."

But, what will be the educational program in 1985? This fascinating book won't help you with tomorrow's reading class, but is worth your attention as a professional educator.

Recent publications for I.R.A. may be valuable to our readers who need a good annotated bibliography on topics such as *Readability and Reading, Comprehension in Reading, Reading Programs in Secondary Schools, Case Studies in Reading, and/or Methods of Reading Instruction*. If so, these are the five most recent in the series.

A valuable bibliography from a different source (United States

Government Printing Office) is *Aids to Media Selection for Students and Teachers*. This bibliography describes selected book lists and periodicals that review books, audio-visual materials, and gives sources of multi-ethnic instructional materials.

The fourth edition of *Developing Language Skills in the Elementary Schools* by Harry Greene and Walter Petty contains new information "...particularly in the areas of children's language development, of linguistics, and of teaching the disadvantaged pupil."

In reading the chapter on "*Language Problems of the Societal Disadvantaged*" the reader is presented with generalizations from research and observation. However, the reader is properly warned about generalizing by the caution that "Teachers work, not with averages, but with individuals and the sociological data may or may not help to understand a particular child's needs." Further, many teaching suggestions are given which will be a refreshing change to those who are tiring of writers who simply identify problem areas and offer little or no solutions with practical classroom application.

Holt, Rinehardt and Winston now have available Bill Martin's "*Instant Books*" on cassette tapes. These tapes are extraordinarily well done and fascinating to children. Martin first tells the story then invites the listener to follow in the book. The whole procedure is low key and designed for

enjoyment and this quality comes through clearly. If you're looking for a way to brighten up the days for children and at the same time enhance their language development - Bill Martin's Instant Books Cassette Tapes will do it.

Looking for some good ideas and activities to use with children in the language arts? *From Thoughts to Words*, by Marlene Glass (National Council of Teachers of English, 508 South Sixth St., Champaign, Illinois, 61822) will more than satisfy your needs.

Here's a thought: "Imagination is more important than knowledge for knowledge is limited whereas imagination embraces the whole world." Einstein

Classroom Reading Inventory by Nicholas Sivaroli is available from William Brown Co. Publishers. The inventory is modeled on the Informal

Reading Inventory procedure made famous by Emmett Betts. It is a useful test to have available for diagnostic purposes and for determining appropriate placement of children in books.

Learning Activities for Children, second edition, by Selma Herr is available from William Brown Co. Publishers. The book consists of a compilation of ideas for teaching reading. It covers a host of categories from critical reading to word recognition and everything in between.

Sounds After Dark by Bill Martin and Peggy Brogan is the latest book available in the *Sounds of Language* series published by Holt, Rinehardt and Winston. The art work is unique and the stories and poems are outstanding. A good book for the teacher who would like to do something different in reading.