

Midwest Region PASS Center

READING 6B

Unit I - Reading Skills

The following reading skills are introduced in this unit: context, main idea, fact and opinion, inferences, and sentence completion or the cloze method. Each skill is introduced by an explanation of the skill itself, then examples are given using the skill. This is followed by activities for student completion using each skill.

Unit II - Reading Skills and the Novel

In this unit the student reads the fifty-eight page novel, Sarah, Plain and Tall. It is suggested that the student may want to read the entire novel and then complete the activities indicated by chapter in the student's book. A definition and activities will cover; plot, setting, theme, characters, and the following reading skills: similes and metaphors, cause and effect, summarization, figurative language, and analogies. The skills will be reinforced by articles about Maine and Kansas-the states discussed in the novel-and writing activities.

Unit III - Critical Reading

This unit includes scientific and historical articles that correspond to the novel the student has just read. The student activities will reinforce the reading skills learned and introduce homonyms and homophones in articles and poems about the ocean, plains, and American legends. These articles will include several vocabulary and writing exercises.

Unit IV - Tall Tales

This unit includes tall tales of Paul Bunyan, Mesquite John, Pecos Bill, and Davy Crockett. These tall tales, told by settlers, reflect both the settlers' origin and the characteristics of the places they settle. There are several social studies activities that tie in with the tall tales such as Michigan and the Great Lakes, Wisconsin and the Dells, and Florida and the Everglades. Vocabulary and reading skills will be reinforced along with several writing activities.

Unit V - Poetry and Short Stories

The poems selected for this unit were chosen to stir the student's emotions by stimulating his/her imagination. Several poems were chosen using imagery and figurative language. There are several poems and short stories about Abraham Lincoln's life and death and Emily Dickinson, that demonstrate to the student the extremes of the position women held during the first centuries of American literature. There are related reading and writing activities for each poem and story.