

Reading and Literature

One thing I have learned, never give up, pray for wisdom and work with your child's interests. They do learn to read, it may not be on your time schedule, but for certain on theirs!

Adventist Materials and Resources

♥ AY (Pathfinders and Adventurers)

All class work requirements include reading of

“Give attendance to reading.”
1 Timothy 4:13

several books and other materials. (Check *Adventurer Manual*, *AY Instructor's Guide*, and *AY Honors book* for specific

requirements.) This reading can be assigned as part of the reading curriculum or extra credit (outside reading) assignments. This is also an excellent opportunity to teach writing of book reports and how to make correct bibliographical entries.

“Children need proper reading which will afford amusement and recreation and not demoralize the mind or weary the body...If pure and good reading is furnished them, they will cultivate a taste for that.”
The Adventist Home,
page 411

♥ The Bible

For your information, the reading levels of various Bible versions are: NIV-7.8; NirV-2.9; KJV-12.0; NKJV-9.0; NLT-6.3; NASB-11.0; NRSV-10.4; The Message-4.8; CEV-5.4.

Bible Stories for Early Readers

(The Moore Academy, ABC)

Set of ten books. Colorful artwork, musical rhyme, and simple phonetic text. Young children enjoy the pictures and stories before they are able to read them.

Felt letters

(ABC, The Moore Academy, The Sycamore Tree, teacher supply stores)

Large letters and numbers printed on felt of various colors, to be cut out and used in any way you want—bulletin boards, Sabbath school displays, and, of course, teaching the letters and numbers.

The Holy Bible is the greatest piece of literature written. Use it for handwriting practice, spelling words, poetry, prose, allegory, history, parables and Bible study. Make it the first priority in your learning experience.

♥ **Gospel Primers**

James Edson White (LMN Publishing, Hartland Publications, ABC)

Paperback facsimile reprints of these three primers which use the Word Method to teaching reading, through the use of Bible stories.

♥ **Gospel Reader**

James Edson White (LMN Publishing, Hartland Publications, ABC)

Paperback facsimile reprint, tells the story of the great controversy from Creation to the New Earth.

♥ **Messiah, A Book for Today About a Man For All Time**

Jerry D. Thomas (ABC)

A contemporary adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*. Easy to read format with updated vocabulary on a seventh- to ninth-grade reading level. The beautiful, original message still shines through out this book.

Moore-McGuffey Readers

(The Moore Academy)

The Moores selected the best stories from the early *McGuffey Readers* of 1836-1853 and added new full-color illustrations (in Books 1 & 2). There are four volumes, which retain the emphasis on character-building, family values, and morals. Each story is followed by a list of words which can be used as vocabulary and/or spelling words, and comprehension questions on the material read. They span a reading level from first grade to high school.

SDA Readers: Life Series

(Contact the Review & Herald for a local distributor.)

This series replaces the older (1960's) Adventist versions of the "Dick and Jane" books that you may have used in church school. Levels 1 & 2 consist of a student work text and teacher's edition. Levels 3-15 consist of a student textbook, student activity set (two workbooks), and teacher's edition with answer keys, and test booklets. Available for grade K-9:

- ✚ *In the Beginning* (kindergarten)
- ✚ *A Time to Play* (grade 1, 1st quarter)
- ✚ *Seek and Find* (grade 1, 2nd quarter)
- ✚ *Who Will Come In?* (grade 1, 3rd quarter)
- ✚ *God Made It So* (grade 1, 4th quarter)
- ✚ *Wheels In a Wheel* (grade 2, first semester)
- ✚ *Love Your Neighbor* (grade 2, second semester)
- ✚ *Windows of Heaven* (grade 3, first semester)
- ✚ *Seedtime and Harvest* (grade 3, second semester)
- ✚ *A Time to Weave* (grade 4)
- ✚ *Miracles and Milestones* (grade 5)
- ✚ *On Eagles' Wings* (grade 6)
- ✚ *Of Morning Stars* (grade 7)
- ✚ *Who Is My Brother?* (grade 8)
- ✚ *Visions and Dreams* (grade 9)

The workbooks are okay but definitely optional. While they attempt to teach a lot of important study skills, much of it can be done using real-life situations: for example, dictionary and encyclopedia skills using the real books, not just a picture of an encyclopedia set in the workbook.

There is much more material given than one could possibly cover in one school year. It is designed so the teacher can be selective according to her students' needs. Some object to the use of historical fiction stories. On the other hand, there are many good denominational history and mission stories and nature documentaries throughout the books. These are hardback books and moderately expensive, but many times you can find used copies to buy.

Reading Aloud: Read to your children from birth until they leave home! Always be reading a book together, the titles are endless.

*Many children listen better when their hands are busy. Let them illustrate the story, color a picture of the same topic or build the scene with Legos. I still have the precious illustrations my children drew while we read *The Story of Redemption*.*

♥ **Stories of Little Ellen**

(Country Garden School)

Reprint of a lovely little book that we treasure. Reading level at about grade 1 or 2. Stories of Ellen Harmon as a child.

The Abaddon Conspiracy

Raymond S. Moore (Bethany House Publishers, 1985). May be out of print; request information from The Moore Academy, Box 1, Camas, WA 98607.

A fascinating dramatization of Lucifer's rise and fall, revealing his covert schemes to corrupt God's design for the universe. Imaginary yet Biblically based account written in an interesting, readable, narrative style. Good for upper grade reading/literature assignments.

♥ **The Story of Jesus**

Ellen G. White (Country Garden School)

Adapted for children from *The Desire of Ages*, with accompanying Study Guide. Recommended for grade 3.

♥ **The Story of Redemption**

Ellen G. White (Country Garden School, ABC, Moore Foundation)

Covers from the fall of Lucifer to the New Earth and major Bible stories in between. Accompanying Study Guide, recommended grades 4 to 7.

Also available, the Easy English Edition which is easier for children to read and understand. We greatly enjoy reading it together for family worship.

“In the colleges and universities thousands of youth devote a large part of the best years of life to the study of Greek and Latin. And while they are engaged in these studies, mind and character are molded by the evil sentiments of pagan literature, the reading of which is generally regarded as an essential part of the study of these languages.”
Ministry of Healing, page 443

♥ **True Education Reader series**

(Leaves of Autumn)

On July 20, 1899, Sister Ellen had a vision in which a heavenly messenger asked, “Why has not appropriate matter for reading books and other lesson books been selected and compiled?” (*Counsels to Teachers*, page 458) In response to this directive, in 1907 three Adventist educators began to release several volumes, which were “entirely free from myths, fairy tales, and all that tend to undermine

Instead of a Book Report:

~Write a letter to your best friend recommending that they read the book.

~Tell the story to your family.

~Design a book jacket (cover) drawing pictures and writing a short synopsis.

~Make a map of where the story took place.

~Make a flyer to advertise the book.

~Make an illustrated timeline of the book.

~Write a letter to the author, tell them what you liked and what you would have changed.

~Record your favorite parts of the book on a tape recorder.

~Make a crossword or word search puzzle using terms, characters or places found in the book.

~Make models of characters, places etc. from clay, soap, wood or plaster.

faith in the sacred Word." They contain stories, poetry, Scripture selections, nature lessons, and biographies, in various compositional styles and modes of expression. They "make the relation of reading, spelling, language, and composition close and vital." Variety of reading matter in stories, poetry, selections from the Bible, nature lessons, biographies, in various compositional styles and modes of expression. This series was used as the basic source of instruction in Adventist church schools for approximately fifty years. Eight levels: *Primer* and *Book One* through *Book Seven* grades K-6.

Available in black and white photocopies of the historical *original* volumes from Country Garden School. Leaves of Autumn has reprinted these wonderful little books, 8-book set \$57.00.

Other Christian/secular materials

At Last! A Reading Method for Every Child

\$29.95; Pecci Educational Publishers, 440 Davis Court #405, San Francisco, CA 94111; 415/391-8579; www.onlinereading.com

Teaches reading from beginning to remedial with step-by-step instructions. Author also has a *Word Introduction List* that coordinates with the Adventist readers which she highly recommends.

Blackstone Audiobooks

Box 969, Ashland, OR
97520; 800/729-2665;

www.blackstoneaudio.com

Thousands of books on audiotape for rent. Increase vocabulary, attention span and listening skills while learning.

Bob Books

Scholastic, Inc. (Christian
Book Distributors, ROCK Solid)

Recommended by Ruth Beechick. Very easy, simple books that begin by presenting short vowels and single consonants and progressing forward. Short little books to supplement reading program and give your beginning reader lots of practice with three letter words. No objectionable content with simple, black-white, stick figure drawings.

First Reader System, Inc.

P. O. Box 495, Alton, IL 62002, 800/700-5228, by
Phillis Schlafley.

A phonics system designed for teaching young children at home. Includes reader, workbook, two audiocassettes and two "fat" pencils. Cost is \$79.95 plus \$7 S&H. When spending so much on one program be sure to thoroughly check it out for your child's needs.

♥ Five Home Spun Steps for Teaching Your Child to Read

Ruth Beechick (<http://homeschool-books.com> or The Moore Academy)

The five steps being, pre-reading, beginning, blending, decoding, fluency. Highly recommended.

McCall-Crabbs Test Lessons in Reading

(Country Garden School)

Short reading comprehension tests that give your child practice in taking comprehension-type reading tests similar to what is given on standardized tests.

Choosing Literature:

~Teach your children right and wrong reading materials.

~Does it meet the criteria of Philippians 4:8?

~Does it have the mind of Jesus? (Philippians 2:5)

~Does it help us walk with Jesus? (Colossians 1:10,11)

~Do a study in Spirit of Prophecy regarding "false education, fiction, infidel authors, all other writings inferior to God's word."

Six booklets, each containing 60-test lessons. The student reads the selection then answers eight multiple-choice questions within a three-minute time limit. You will need the *Manual/Answer Key* that has testing instructions and answer keys for all six levels, and some preprinted answer sheets. A stopwatch is handy, but you can use a watch or clock with a second hand for timing. Scores indicate what grade level your child is reading with comprehension. Books A through F correspond to grades 3 – 8.

National Right to Read Foundation

800/READING

Offers a 15-minute reading test for you to give at home. Part 1 determines how well your child uses phonics to read. Part 2 determines grade level. Recommendations for improvement are offered. \$20.

Pathway Readers

(Timberdoodle)

Amish readers for grades 1-8. No fantasy just simple, true stories about the Amish lifestyle. Black and white sketches, no flashy pictures.

Play 'n' Talk

(Some homeschooling moms sell this product.)

It contains recorded lessons on cassettes, games, flash cards, touch typing lessons, an instructor's manual and training video. It's a lot of work and expense (\$250) to teach reading, which would come naturally when the child is ready, given the proper home reading environment and a little nudge with simple phonics.

Prairie Primer

(Cadron Creek, The Sycamore Tree) \$45

Contains nine unit studies, one for each Little House book, suitable for grades 3 - 6. One-year curriculum. You need the Little House books and some supplementation of mathematics. Adding Learning Projects such as cooking, sewing, insects, etc. will round out this resource.

♥ Reading Lesson

Mountcastle Company, One Annabel Lane Suite 214, San Ramon, CA 94583; 925/838-4441; www.readinglesson.com You can download the first two lessons on the website.

A 444-page book with 20 lessons \$27.95. "Easy to follow recipe for teaching children to read." Simple instructions for parents, with no silly stories or cartoons. Phonics based with a sprinkling of word recognition (important) with emphasis

on decoding. Takes the child with no reading skills to about second grade level. I really like this program.

Additional materials, nice, but are not necessary include: CD-ROM to accompany lesson book, \$29.95; *The Story Book* with 40 simple and wholesome stories for practice \$29.95; The Sounds of Letters video \$14.95; *The Writing Lesson* \$39.95.

Recorded Books, LLC

800/638-1304; www.recordedbooks.com

Listen to recorded books and follow along with the book. Multi-sensory approach helps your child decode words, and make sense of long sentences. Or just listen for the enjoyment.

Rod and Staff

This series of readers for the Mennonite curriculum are based on Bible stories. The workbooks contain a LOT of busywork (for their school children) that can bog you down rather quickly.

Scaredy Cat Reading System

Joyce Herzog, Ph.D.; www.joyceherzog.com

Vowels are scaredy cats, sometimes they are "brave" and they say their names like "a" in brave and "o" in coat. Other times they are quiet and they make a "scared" sound. There is also a cute story of how the letters got their sounds which makes it easier to understand how the English language is so "mixed up." Levels 1-4 available.

Sing, Spell, Read, and Write

800/321-8322; www.singspell.com

A systematically developed, phonics-based reading, writing, and spelling program. Some have found it helpful, others say there are too many complicated gadgets.

- ✚ *Pre-School Kit*, ages 4-5, alphabet and color recognition, shapes, matching, opposites, etc. \$69.95
- ✚ *Winning*, a remedial reading kit for pre-teens to adult, for students with learning disabilities and special education needs. \$175.00.
- ✚ Lap Desk Home Tutoring Kit, \$175.00

♥ The Swift Placement Screen for Reading

(The Sycamore Tree)

A quick 10-minute, easy test to determine your child's reading level.

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons

(Timberdoodle, The Sycamore Tree) \$17.95.

Short, 20 minute, phonics based lessons, show you step-by-step how to teach your child to read. A pronunciation guide for those of us who were not taught phonics. One drawback is the silly stories given for practice reading, nothing objectionable, just nonsense.

I'd like to make one comment about **Harry Potter Books**. These books are sweeping the world and are being lauded as a great way to get children to read. They are also on the reading lists of many public schools.

I've heard the statement, "This is good magic." There is no such thing as good magic. God condemns magic, wizardry, sorcery, and divination and the penalty for participating in these things is death. For more information read: Deuteronomy 18:10-12, Leviticus 19:26, Jeremiah 14:14, Ezekiel 13:6, Isaiah 8:19, and do an Internet search.

"As an educator no part of the Bible is of greater value than are its biographies. These biographies differ from all others in that they are absolutely true to life."

"No truth does the Bible more clearly teach than that what we do is the result of what we are. To a great degree the experiences of life are the fruition of our own thoughts and deeds."

Education, page 146