

Journeys Reading 2

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JOURNEYS READING 2. Roni Lebauer. Prentice Hall, pp. 137, 1980, \$20.

This book is one of the twelve *Journeys* series: *Journeys Reading*, *Journeys Writing*, *Journeys Grammar*, and *Journeys Listening/Speaking*, each of which is divided into three levels from beginning through intermediate. *Journeys Reading 2*, intended for the level between beginning and intermediate, is written by Roni Lebauer, who also wrote *Journeys Reading 1*.

Journeys Reading 2 is composed of 20 units. Each unit includes warm-up questions (1 page), three reading activities (2 pages each), and post-reading activities called "Challenge" (1 page). The reading activities in each unit consist of two intensive readings and one scanning. The book is obviously skill-based, emphasizing such skills as skimming, scanning, guessing the meaning of words, predicting the content by the title, and making inferences.

Each unit contains various materials such as short articles, letters, and conversations. The selection of materials is well-considered and gives new insights to both teachers and students. Topics such as SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), graphology, and the origins and meanings of typical names are difficult to find in other ESL/EFL materials.

In "Vocabulary Practice," students are asked to classify words into appropriate categories. Also, along with the authenticity of the articles, the book sometimes uses difficult vocabulary such as "snobbish", "procrastination", and "stick one's neck out" as they are the original passages. Instead of substituting more familiar words, the book gives the paraphrased expression for each, which not only avoids distorting their meanings but also motivates students to use an English-English dictionary.

Another strong point of the book is that students can make their own judgements on some questions. For instance, in one unit students are asked to choose between a high school and a military academy. These questions help students realize they can use their own ideas in reading. One of the mottoes of the book, "Beginning level students have brains and hearts" is here reflected and accomplished.

All in all, I am really a fan of *Journeys Reading 2*. I tried this book myself and enjoyed tackling each activity. An advanced EFL reader like me can share the joy of learning with students by using *Journeys Reading 2*. This skill-based, learner-friendly book is highly recommended to all teachers who want a change in their classes.