
Beyond Words: An Advanced Reading Course

BEYOND WORDS: AN ADVANCED READING COURSE. Mark O. James and Norman W. Evans. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall Regents, 1989. pp. 343 + iv, Paper: \$13.25. Teacher's Manual.

Beyond Words was written to bridge the gap between typical ESL reading levels and college-level expectations. From their years of teaching experience, both James and Evans noticed that relatively few ESL reading texts effectively prepared advanced students for college course loads and expectations. Other than ESP texts created specifically for a particular field of study, relatively few textbooks meet this need.

Drawing upon recent research findings in the area of interactive reading and schema theory, the text uses thematic chapters representing the broad spectrum

of science and the humanities as a vehicle for instruction in the organizational patterns found in expository writing. Reading skills closely related to these organizational patterns are also integrated into each chapter.

Though the use of thematic chapters in a reading textbook is not new, what is new in this book is that each chapter contains four to six substantial readings, allowing students to build on previous knowledge before moving on to a new topic and chapter. In addition, each reading passage is accompanied by a rich variety of both pre- and post-reading exercises and tasks which encourage readers to interact with the text in a variety of ways.