

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am a remedial reading teacher in Inarajan Elementary School on Guam. I am interested particularly in using TESL to teach reading, so if you have any information along that line, I would like to know about it.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Pinney

Dear Miss Penney

In addition to the Reader's Digest (Second Language Readers), we have used the Reader's Digest Readers for native speakers-grades one through eight, with their accompanying tapes, in our ESL program for teaching reading. Beginning students listen to the cassettes which read the stories aloud while they follow in their books. The recordings also explain some vocabulary items prior to the reading. We like this program because the student may listen and read alone, meeting the teacher for subsequent readings.

A recent book for teaching reading in ESL is *Teaching Reading to Non-English Speakers* by Eleanor Wall Thonis published by Collier MacMillan International 1970. This book gives many helpful suggestions for teaching non-native speakers to read English. It starts with the pre-reading level and introduction to print, goes on to developing skills for reading vocabulary, reading in content areas, and then reading in English. The first four chapters of the book concern reading in the Vernacular (pre-reading level to reading in content areas). The next four chapters concern reading in English and include suggestions for the learner who is literate in his native tongue and the functional illiterate pupil (with reference to bilingualism). The final two chapters concern an appraisal of pupil progress in reading. Every area has extensive bibliographies. (Publishers price is \$3.95)

David P. Harris' *Reading and Improvement Exercises for Students of English as a Second Language* has many

good exercises for high-intermediate and advanced level ESL students who need practice in improving reading and comprehension. (Prentice-Hall 1966)

The Philippine Center for Language Study Monograph Series No. 4 titled *Basic Readers for English Teaching* by Minda Cascolan Sutaria with J. Donald Bowen as editor is also a very valuable reference book for teaching reading in ESL and is obtainable from Phoenix Press, Inc. Quezon City, Philippines or Oceana Publications, Dobbs Ferry, New York 110522 U.S. Price \$6.50.

There are also many good linguistic reading programs for native speakers (such as the Barnhart series) that can be used for TESL classes.

**Editor's Note:** Any readers who have written papers on, or who have had particular success in teaching reading to English Second Language students and would like to share with Miss Penny and others, are invited to submit these for publication in *The TESL Reporter*.

### TESL REPORTER

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Articles relevant to teaching English as a second language in Hawaii, the South Pacific and Asia, may be submitted to the editor through Box 157, The Church College of Hawaii, Laie, Hawaii 96762. Manuscripts should be double-spaced and typed, not exceeding five pages.