

General Introduction

The *After School* Reading Activities series provides a unique collection of reproducible activities specifically designed to provide practice of key reading skills in a less formal format. Exercises provide a variety of learning experiences that inspire creativity while encouraging reading comprehension and practice in writing. *After School* Reading Activities features worksheets as well as hands-on activities that provide opportunities for all different learning styles to benefit from its contents. The activities are designed for individuals, pairs of students, or small groups to use.

Standards Mastery

Although this series is meant to provide practice in a nonthreatening format, activities support many of the NCTE/IRA standards. Experience with several genres of writing (including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry) is included within each skill area. Activities demand that a variety of strategies be used in order to complete the work. Examples of strategies are using prior knowledge, word identification strategies, and the story graphics. Students will be asked to evaluate and synthesize information and then to communicate it in a variety of ways, from writing brief sentences, to filling in a story map, to creating pictures, and to participating in group activities.

Organization

The book is arranged by the following skill areas:



Word Skills

- Arranged in a progressive, sequential format
- Letter/sound recognition, digraphs, blends, and more



Vocabulary Development

- High interest and high frequency words, including reproducible pages to make flash cards
- Cross curricular (science, social studies, and math)



Reading Comprehension

- One- and two-page articles
- Story elements, inferencing, following directions, and more

Use

As you prepare to make this series a part of your child's activity schedule, have the following items on hand:

crayons
stapler
glue

markers
brads
library books

construction paper
hole punch
reference materials

tagboard
pencils
scissors

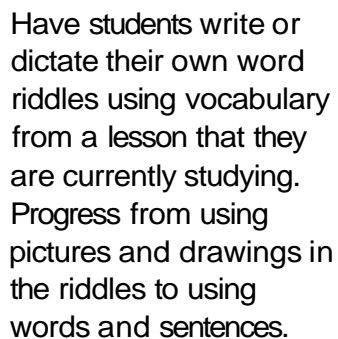
General Introduction (cont.)

Structure

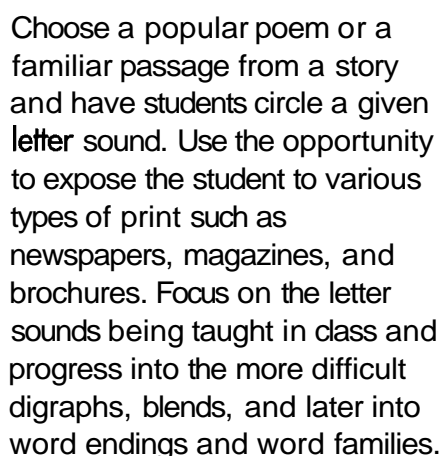
Plan to use the reproducible pages in centers, for independent practice, or with small groups of students. Photocopy the flash card pages, and devote time to having the students make the flash cards for future use. Reproduce the selected pages to provide a variety of activities designed to ensure increased achievement while having fun.

Extension Activities

The format of many of the activities makes them ideal for adapting the type of exercise to other materials. Some ideas are:



Have students write or dictate their own word riddles using vocabulary from a lesson that they are currently studying. Progress from using pictures and drawings in the riddles to using words and sentences.



Choose a popular poem or a familiar passage from a story and have students circle a given letter sound. Use the opportunity to expose the student to various types of print such as newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Focus on the letter sounds being taught in class and progress into the more difficult digraphs, blends, and later into word endings and word families.

The sets of flash cards have many uses as well:

The flash cards are printed back-to-back and can be removed from the book, colored, laminated, and reused. They can also be reproduced so that each student has his own set. Use the cards to increase meaning vocabulary in the theme they are based upon. The words can be used in a self-checking quiz situation, or partners can quiz each other. Have students **reveal** either the word or the definition and then give the other side. Students should be able to master the words either way.

The sets of flash cards can be used individually or together. Students can choose two cards from each theme and use them in an oral story. Or the cards can be sorted by category or theme, by syllables, or beginning sounds.

The word family cards can be used in a variety of ways. These can be sorted by long and short vowel sounds and used to help generate lists of rhyming words for poetry writing or word family spelling lists.

The flash cards can also be used as the required vocabulary for shape books in certain themes. Use the theme-based cards, as well as the word family cards, for this project.

Fancy Figuring

Write the word for each phonetic spelling. Then find each word in the wordsearch. You may need to use a dictionary.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. /p ăd' l ăk/ | 14. /k ă f ă'/ |
| 2. /s ab' a t ăzh/ | 15. /r ŭk' s ăk/ |
| 3. /l ăng' k ē/ | 16. /ŭrbz/ |
| 4. /tr ă s ă'/ | 17. /kr ă sh ă'/ |
| 5. /f ē' an s ă/ | 18. /tr ŭj/ |
| 6. /sn ŭg' əl/ | 19. /d ă' n ăsh/ |
| 7. /ŭn r ă l ē/ | 20. /pr ăngk/ |
| 8. /kr ă' n ər/ | 21. /d ăd' əl/ |
| 9. /sw ă s' t i k ə/ | 22. /r ăsh' ən/ |
| 10. /st ă ăpt/ | 23. /h ă' t ē/ |
| 11. /k ŭr' f y ă/ | 24. /t ăr m ănt' / |
| 12. /əm br ăi' d ər/ | 25. /d i f i' ənt l ē/ |
| 13. /n ă' t s ē/ | |

The remaining letters of **the** wordsearch spell a message. Begin in the upper left-hand corner of the puzzle. Write the letters in order on the lines below.

Message:

t	r	o	u	s	s	e	a	u	i	k	i
e	u	n	g	n	c	t	h	r	z	i	e
h	c	h	e	u	r	s	o	k	a	c	l
c	k	a	t	g	n	u	r	o	n	t	d
o	s	u	n	g	a	o	l	a	p	y	w
r	a	g	e	l	n	t	i	y	l	e	a
c	h	m	e	h	f	o	t	m	i	d	
u	k	t	r	f	a	e	n	b	a	n	a
r	c	y	o	a	i	a	r	s	a	r	n
f	o	a	t	c	i	o	l	b	v	s	i
e	l	e	r	f	i	y	b	a	s	r	s
w	d	a	e	d	v	p	r	a	n	k	h
e	a	d	e	s	w	a	s	t	i	k	a
m	p	r	a	n	e	g	d	u	r	t	y

