

Introduction

Tools are developed and refined in response to people's needs. The SARAW program is a wonderful literacy tool that has been developed over time and continues to be refined by participants, instructors and tutors.

The Companion to SARAW was also developed for an expressed need. We saw a need to expand the SARAW program's capabilities within the framework of the computer program. We wanted to design an exercise workbook that would cut down on instructor and tutor preparation time, and give some direction for learning. We felt that the READ section of SARAW was an untapped wealth of learning opportunities if one knew what to do with the information.

We decided to take the stories from READ and develop a Directed Reading and Thinking Activity (DRTA) for each one including some:

- Background information to generate thought and discussion on a certain topic;
- Questions covering facts, vocabulary and inferences about the subject matter;
- Other activities based on the subject of the story designed to further develop writing skills.

We also decided to use the same stories to develop basic grammar exercises. Working in the SARAW classroom in Regina, Saskatchewan, we found that many of the participants, while they could read fairly well, had trouble with simple grammar. To improve their skills, we lifted many sentences directly from the READ section of SARAW and used them to help refine:

- sentence structure
- capitalization and punctuation
- showing possession and using contractions
- building better sentences
- constructing paragraphs

Finally, we developed a chapter especially for volunteer tutors and instructors that includes specific activities that could be done using different sections of the SARAW program including:

- writing letters in the proper format
- using the newspaper
- language experience stories
- other activities

Our goal is to ultimately make learning as easy and interesting as possible for people using the SARAW program. We hope we have begun to accomplish this goal and welcome any feedback to make the workbook useful for all participants, instructors and volunteer tutors.

Evaluation Form

*We need to know what you thought of the Companion to SARAW.
Please take the time to fill in this evaluation form and return it to us by June 1, 1999.
You may fax it to: (306) 522-9474 or mail it to:*

*Companion to SARAW Evaluation
c/o Neil Squire Foundation
Suite 100, 2445 - 13th Avenue
Regina, SK
S4P 0W1*

Content

5. Did you find the content of this manual to be:

Very Useful

Useful

Not Useful

6. Do you use the READ stories more with The Companion to SARAW?

Yes

NO

7. What did you find was the most useful part of chapter 2?

8. What was the least useful part of chapter 2?

Why? _____

9. Were the grammar exercises clear to understand?

Yes

No

Why or why not? _____

10. What are your suggestions for other grammar activities: _____

Format

1. Did you find the manual:

• easy to read

Yes

No

• pleasing to look at

Yes

No

• included white space

Yes

No

2. What did you like most about the format of the manual?

3. What did you like least about the format of the manual? _____

4. Do you think the manual followed Plain Language Principles?

Yes

No

5. Please feel free to use the back of this form for any general comments you have.