

About *Spotlight on Reading*

The primary goal for every college student should be to complete school as a “well educated” individual. Indeed, the basis for that education is a solid foundation in reading.

However, the path toward this goal is often not an easy one for students who struggle with the fundamentals of reading comprehension. *Spotlight on Reading* addresses students’ concerns by providing instruction in basic skills along with an abundance of practice while motivating students to become readers on the road to becoming “well-educated” citizens.

We are proud to introduce *Spotlight on Reading, Volume II*, a unique text for the college student in need of secondary-level basic reading skills. The success of our many years in the classroom using the methods incorporated in the *Spotlight* texts has demonstrated that students can make significant strides in college-level reading skills when using an instructional text that provides motivational features, clearly explained pedagogy, and multifaceted practice exercises that reinforce learning.

Spotlight on Reading II contains many unique features, including intriguing biographies of students’ favorite celebrities, as well as several articles written by and about spotlighted celebrities. For instructors, each chapter provides a comprehensive and manageable method that can be easily incorporated into any reading curriculum.

Rationale for *Spotlight on Reading*

Spotlight on Reading, Volume II is a college textbook that works for both teacher and student. It is unlike other texts that do a terrific job with one or more of the essential components in the instruction of reading. While one text focuses on teaching and practice of reading skills across the curriculum, another concentrates on intensive vocabulary training, and still another exposes students to notable works of fiction. Others take an “everything-but-the-kitchen-sink” approach, leaving to instructors the task of sorting out what to teach when, and delivering much more material than one course could possibly cover.

A Comprehensive Approach to Reading Instruction

Spotlight on Reading, Volume II has proven that students attain success when using a comprehensive text that provides the “big picture” while using a methodical, reader-friendly approach, but one that is at the same time manageable in terms of coverage and length. The text has garnered praise from teachers who appreciate its unit and chapter format and the variety of readings offered in the disciplines, as well as literary works. Several practice exercises along with diagnostic and assessment exams facilitate evaluation of skills.

Our hope is that adjuncts in particular, as well as any others assigned to courses without a great deal of preparation time, will enjoy the facility of presentation provided by *Spotlight on Reading*. Students will no longer feel overwhelmed, either by multiple texts, or by a single text the size and heft of a phonebook. This text offers ease of use for the instructor while providing a comprehensive, reader-friendly, and motivating apparatus for the college reading student.

Answering the Needs of All Students

This text is intended for use by the thousands of students in reading courses at colleges throughout the nation. Specifically, the book is aimed at the secondary-level reading class, which often includes a mix of native, international, learning disabled, and returning students, but also those students who need to “brush up” on skills before immersion into the college curriculum. These students typically lack or need review of comprehension skills and have scored just below norm on a school-administered basic skills reading exam. For many of these students, this text provides a means for easing them into the demands of the college classroom.

The goals for students of secondary-level reading classes include the ability to attain passing scores on the aforementioned exams, but, more importantly, to attain a basic understanding of literal reading skills with special emphasis on unlocking the meaning of vocabulary words and understanding the main idea. Additionally, the text helps students explore critical reading skills (including differentiation of fact versus opinion, inference, author’s intent, attitude, and tone), through practice readings in various content disciplines. Recognizing that students need to have an understanding of controversial issues and current news, we also include work on understanding the newspaper, as well as essays that expound bold opinions. Finally, units promote affective skills through readings in poetry and short stories. Attainment of these skills will improve student comprehension of college textbooks, regardless of their major. Other long-range goals of this text are to: build a foundation for success in whatever career choice the student makes; teach an appreciation of and curiosity about literature; motivate students to explore issues that are relevant to their lives; and offer students a sense of satisfaction in mastering the essential skills of reading and, concurrently, writing.

How to Integrate Reading in Any Course

Sometimes students do not perform as well as they should because they struggle not with the subject, but with essential reading skills. The knowledgeable instructor can help these students by consistently reviewing homework, along with vocabulary unfamiliar to the student. Encourage students to follow the SQ3R plan when reading, which includes previewing, questioning material, highlighting, and reviewing. Make sure to reinforce readings by questioning and creating an open class atmosphere where students feel free to respond and air concerns. Connect the readings to real life experiences to inspire students to become successful in your class, and to become lifelong readers.

Features in the Text

Spotlight on Reading, Volume II contains the following features:

- **“Spotlight On”**—Each unit opens with a brief biography of an instantly recognizable celebrity, like Angelina Jolie, Avril Lavigne, Tommy Hilfiger, and Muhammad Ali. The “work” of each chapter is related to a motivating factor revealed in the celebrity’s biography.
- **Readings**—Relevant material from across the curriculum and narratives that address topics related to the celebrity biographies in each unit are featured. Read-

ings come from social science, humanities, science and math textbooks; popular sources (covering both timeless issues and current events); and literature. Once students attain basic comprehension strategies, they will be introduced to readings in literature by prominent and less-known authors that will inspire and empower. There is no need for students to purchase literature or other anthologies, since the text offers a plethora of reading selections.

- **Organization**—The progression of chapters in the book is based on the principle of scaffolding; that is, the skills taught in each chapter build, in obvious and practical ways, on skills mastered subsequently.
- **Units**—Ten major units, with two chapters per unit, each highlight a different skill and incorporate vocabulary, study skills, and inferential skills in comprehension exercises.
- **Chapters**—Based upon the principle of scaffolding, this chapter-by-chapter approach offers flexibility to those who wish to proceed at a faster or slower pace, but most importantly the skills taught in each chapter build, in obvious and practical ways, on skills mastered subsequently.
- **Exercises**—Comprehensive exercises are incorporated into each chapter to reinforce pedagogy and extend learning. Perforated pages allow students to submit work to the instructor.
- **“Your Turn, What Did You Learn?”**—These short quizzes check student comprehension.
- **“Comprehending Longer Selections”**—Comprehensive exercises included in eleven chapters are composed of activities that allow students to practice skills presented in the chapter. Activities based on the longer reading include:
 - two sets of vocabulary questions (one pre-reading and one post-reading);
 - multiple-choice and short-answer comprehension questions;
 - free writing journal suggestions;
 - individual and collaborative student activities;
 - and Web-based look-it-up research exercises.
- **Getting the Picture**—Pictures jump start guided freewrite activity at the end of every chapter.
- **SQ3R Cards**—Tear-out guide cards are included to assist students using this study system for select longer readings.
- **Chapter Previews and Highlights**—Presented before and after each chapter, these ensure that students see the progression of their skills, and the connection between what came before and what follows.
- **Content on Study Skills**—A unit on study skills is provided early in the text. The formula of SQ3R has proven effective in helping students succeed in college courses.
- **Content on Vocabulary**—The text includes two chapters of vocabulary instruction. Vocabulary skills are introduced early, as vocabulary comprehension is an essential tool in understanding the main idea and other reading concepts. Emphasis is given to meaning through context strategies as well as utilizing word parts and outside resources to promote understanding. Vocabulary is the basic building block to becoming a better reader and, as such, we stress the importance of word skills. Vocabulary skills are reinforced in conjunction with readings throughout the text, eliminating the need for a separate vocabulary textbook.

- **Assessment**—The text begins with a diagnostic reading test that will enable the student to identify skills which need work. The end of the book includes a post-test, which will serve as a review for the final exam for the course.
- For visual interest as well as comprehension practice, *Spotlight on Reading* includes a number of well-chosen **charts** and **photographs**.
- Each chapter reviews and provides practice for study skills, as well as specific **test-taking tips**, which deserve continual pedagogical reinforcement and which comprise an integral basis for college reading.

Spotlight on Reading, Volume II also contains these special **features** that specifically address the needs of college students in a secondary-level basic skills reading class:

- **An entire unit is devoted to understanding newspaper and news magazine articles**, with an explanation of the reporter's 5W's for easy comprehension. Besides articles that cover relevant issues, editorials, columns, and reviews are presented so the student may recognize opinion. These materials inspire students to learn more about society, including local, national, and international affairs.
- On this level, **two long readings with concurrent questions in vocabulary and comprehension are presented in each chapter**. Emphasis is given to meaning through context strategies as well as utilizing word parts and outside resources to promote understanding. Vocabulary is the basic building block to becoming a better reader and, as such, we stress the importance of word skills.
- Students hone critical thinking and reading skills as they **learn to recognize bias and propaganda**, as seen in advertising and several readings. The text devotes an entire unit to these skills.
- In order to **motivate and empower** students to explore literature, **short stories** by such notable writers as Alice Walker, Edgar Allan Poe, and William Carlos Williams are studied. **Poetry is demystified** through an explanation of figurative language, illustrated with several examples.
- It is our hope that students will be at ease not only when reading these poems and short stories, but that they will make the decision that reading can be inspiring and fun at the same time. Perhaps, and this is our ultimate goal, they will even become readers for life!