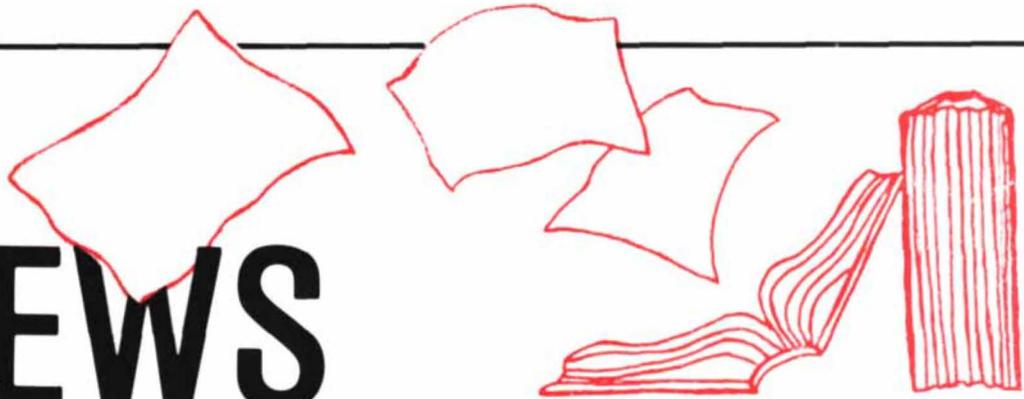


GCT REVIEWS



Reaching the Gifted by Barbara Dixon, John Meyer, and Allan Hardy. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6. 1986, 219 pages, \$21.95.

The purpose of *Reaching the Gifted Child* is to provide a resource book for teachers and parents committed to the affective development of children from ages 8 to 14.

The authors advocate a psychosocial approach based upon developmental principles in addressing the socio-emotional needs of gifted children. This theoretical base is established in the first chapter. Happily, as befits a resource book, each chapter then moves rapidly to students and teacher activities.

These activities focus upon self-analysis and personal growth through language — reading, writing, discussing, and listening. Topics include identity, human rights, senior/youth interactions, literary extensions, perceptions, and the gifted child in the world of short stories.

The latter topic is addressed by a series of short stories (most written by Barbara Dixon) which are designed to promote discussion, research, thinking, and problem-solving. Each of the eight stories includes suggested activities and would be an excellent basis for discussion of social and moral development of gifted children. A creative teacher or student would rapidly expand upon these activities and find the stories both challenging and fun.

The quality of the activities in other chapters is generally high, some more useful than others. One limitation of the book is the heavy emphasis upon verbal learning: spatial learners would find the activities far less intriguing than their more verbal peers.

Despite this, *Reaching the Gifted* is highly recommended. It would be an excellent resource for middle grades teachers interested in promoting psychosocial development of their students.

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Inventions, Robots, Future from The Learning Works, P.O. Box 6187, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. 1983, 112 pages, \$8.95.

Inventions, Robots, Future is Book 5 of The Learning Works Enrichment Series. It is designed to help gifted children (Grades 4 through 8) develop higher level thinking skills. The book is divided into three sections as the title indicates. Each section is a complete study unit comprising 1) a bulletin board and learning center idea, 2) a pretest, posttest and answer key, 3) background information, 4) activity pages, 5) correlated activities, 6) a bibliography, and 7) an award certificate.

The activity pages provide students with the opportunity to develop and apply creative problem solving and other higher level thinking skills. Each activity is coded to Bloom's Taxonomy for the development and application of a specific thinking skill.

Inventions, Robots, Future can be used in a variety of learning environments: with an entire class, for small group instruction, or by individual students working at their desk or at a learning center. These high interest, fully developed units provide the busy g/c/t teacher with everything that is necessary to complete a study unit. Because of its thoroughness and versatility *Inventions, Robots, Future* is an ideal way to spend \$8.95.

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Monsters — Mysteries — UFOs by Linda Spellman. The Learning Works Enrichment Series, P.O. Box 6187, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. 1983, \$8.95, 110 pages.

Monsters — Mysteries — UFOs is a textbook/activity book, written for Grades 4 through 6. Purchase of this book entitles the buyer to the right to reproduce the activities in the text.

The book is designed to meet the needs of teachers as well as students and many of the activities suggested for the teacher are valuable. Each section of the book is presented with a pretest and with a posttest and the tests are valid tools for assessing the progress of the student.

Each lesson and suggested activity has been carefully presented and the level of difficulty and usefulness has been identified by correlation with Bloom's Taxonomy. Students in gifted programs will find the information valuable and many of the activities to be challenging, especially those identified as *analysis* or *evaluative* level on the taxonomy. It might be noted by interested teachers that the material in this book is also applicable to Grades 2 and 3 in a gifted program.

The text offers some historical perspective on the development of myth, science fiction, and modern phenomenon, as well as providing some thought provoking questions that require research and creative-problem-solving skills to answer. Each section of the book requires hands-on skills as well as verbal and analytical skills.

The material presented develops vocabulary well and invites the students to utilize that vocabulary in other applications. The author has managed to create activities in conjunction with each lesson that enable students to learn language skills, geography skills, historical skills, and art skills. This combination of learning activities makes the book deserving of consideration in a gifted program.

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