

Question Discuss the requirements or characteristics of Text Book and Rapid Readers.  
or.

Describe the qualities of a good English Reader and state what principles should be guided in the formation of a good Reader?

Ans. There are two types of Readers are required for teaching English

- (1) Intensive Reader for intensive study and it is called Text Book.
- (2) The Bihar type is called Rapid Reader or Supplementary Reader. It is for extensive study or rapid reading.

Importance of Text Book - In the absence of any other instructional material the text-book becomes a potent tool in the hands of the teacher to teach the skills of language and the more so of a foreign language.

The more planned the Text-Book the easier is the task of the teacher in making his students learn the language. In view of the elimination of grammar books, the text-book assumes greater significance.

Requirements or Characteristics of Text-Book Readers.

(2)

(1) The subject-matter of the Text-Book or the Reader must be correspond to the mental age to the students. So it should contain material relating to the students environment while selecting his material. The author of the reader must take into consideration the needs and interest of students of a given age group. In other words The two related aspects of need and interest should guide the authors. For younger children family, fairs, festivals, games, animals and interesting stories etc. have a very great attraction. Hence the first two Readers must contain such subjects matter. In middle classes, students find a great charm in taking action, stories of heroism, different phenomena of nature, descriptions of events and scene, dramatics and fiction.

As such, it is necessary that subject-matter relating to those things must find an appropriate place of Readers.

In short

- (i) The subject-matter should be based on the psychological needs and interests of students.
- (ii) It should be related to students' environment (environments)
- (iii) It should be according to the age of students as pointed out by Dr. West "The subject matter of the text-book should be suited to the age of the students."



④

~~speakers~~

7 or 8 thereafter.

(iv) The new words and structures should be introduced with a system like this one.

Primer, First and Second Readers :- Basic vocabulary of 850 words, simple and easy to pronounce.

Next Readers. Structures and words which are generally used in speaking and writing.

(v) A new word and structure must be repeated. Dr. West advised that "A new word should be used twice in the same paragraph and as many times as possible in the rest of lesson"

(vi) Every Reader should give an index of words and structures at the end.

③ Style :- (i) The style should be based on the principle of "Simple to complex"

(ii) The subject-matter should be presented in a logical manner.

(iii) The style should be ~~intended to be~~, appealing to students.

#### ④ Exercises :-

- (i) There should be sufficient numbers of exercises at the end of every lesson.
- (ii) The instructions about the exercises should be brief and clear.
- (iii) One exercise should be illustrated as solved, ~~for example~~.
- (iv) The exercise should be well selected and graded.
- (v) Different types of exercises should be presented.

#### ⑤ Illustrations

- (i) The illustrations should ~~be~~ make the subject matter clear.
- (ii) They should be sufficient in number.
- (iii) The readers for junior level should have illustrations occupying more space and quite large in size.
- (iv) They should be attractive with natural colour combination.
- (v) Too many ideas should not be conveyed in one illustration.

#### ⑥ Proportion and order :- (i) A lesson should not be very long.

(6)

- (2) There should be plausible proportion between prose, poetry, story, biography, lessons etc.
- (iii) Two topics of the same kind should not be in continuation.
- (iv) Proportion of content and structure words should be maintained.

### (7) Technical characteristics

- (i) The paper of the textbook should be ~~with~~ white and durable enough.
- (ii) The print should be attractive with no mistakes. The size of the typing should be bold for juniors and small for seniors.
- (iii) Spacing, margin and symmetry should be proper.
- (iv) The headings and subheadings should be in a very bold type.
- (v) It should be bound properly, neither difficult to open nor hiding any part.
- (vi) The cover should be thick and durable with some interesting illustration over it.
- (vii) The book should be handy, it should be have quarto size for junior classes and crown size for senior classes.
- (viii) The price of the book should be moderate.

## Conclusion :-

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In conclusion, we can say in the words of V. K. Gokak, Director of Central Institute of English, Hyderabad: It is essential that prescription of text-books should be more systematic, careful and controlled. A single graded series of Readers should be prescribed from Primary classes to the higher secondary classes. So that students are put through a well-organised course in English. Either because of the distribution of patronage or because of fear of charges of favouritism a Reader which is an organic part of one series is prescribed for a certain standard and it is followed by a Reader from another series.

This makes it possible for a student to have a well organised course in English in the higher classes.