

JUN 02 1994

A THIRD GRADE  
CLASSROOM LIBRARY

AN ABSTRACT  
PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY  
OF DANBURY STATE COLLEGE

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE

by

Edith A. Kirkwood

June 1968

## A THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM LIBRARY

Every classroom needs its own library. Public and school libraries help to fill the reading needs of children, but even the most complete ones are unable to do a thorough job because the children are not in constant contact with them. The first step in developing an appreciation of good literature in children is to bring the books and the children together at the right time. Only a classroom library is in a position to supply the child with the right book at the moment it is needed.

Each individual teacher must have a wide variety of good literature available in her classroom. Books for the classroom must cover several levels of interest and reading ability, as there will be children reading both above and below the grade level. The library must include, on each level, reference books, classics, and contemporary works. The books must be carefully selected with a view to the needs of the individual children as well as to the types of books that children, in general, enjoy. They must be able to fill the child's emotional as well as intellectual needs. Books can be chosen that relate to the content subjects taught in the classroom, but only those which help to satisfy the needs of children and bring about an appreciation of good literature should be included.

Books for the classroom library must be selected not only for their literary and artistic value but also for their good design. While children should be taught to take good care of books, the books for classroom use will understandably receive harder use at the hands of thirty or more children than they would as the personal property of one child. Books for the classroom should be sturdy and will put together.

When selecting books for the classroom, the wise teacher will make use of such aids as the Horn Book, Children's Catalog, and book review sections of newspapers and magazines to help her in making her choice of books. With the help of these and other sources, she may choose confidently without the necessity of reading each newly published book.

Once a good library has been established in the classroom, it must be kept up to date. Each year many new books appear on the market. The best of these should be incorporated in the classroom library. A library that remains static will not be a good library for long.

Every teacher has a responsibility to guide her students in their selection of books. She must supply them with the proper background, encourage various reading activities, provide the right classroom atmosphere, and display enthusiasm for the books she offers the child. With the help of the teacher, children can be encouraged to widen their reading horizons and to develop their own criteria for the selection of books. The classroom library gives them the opportunity to explore the

world of books, to extend their interests to new fields, to develop a better understanding of themselves and of others, and to satisfy their quest for knowledge. Because of its scope, the classroom library offers a wide selection of material to every child and encourages the development of genuine enthusiasm for reading.