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In Review

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In Review

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The Guinness Book of World Records

Donald McFarlan (Editor)
Bantam Books, 1991 (\$6.95)

The Guinness Book of World Records is a lively collection of short articles about the "biggest," the "fastest," and the "most" of a great variety of phenomena. The 1991 edition is replete with enticing photographs accompanying the clearly written and easy-to-read description. This edition is also well indexed and has a comprehensive table of contents that makes study of particular areas easily accomplished. Categories include "The Human Being," "The Living World," "Science and Technology," and "Sports and Games."

The Guinness Book of World Records is not a collection of trivial information but a wealth of what is, for the most part, highly interesting and useful information. For example, the 1991 edition contains a well written, documented section titled, "A World in Crisis."

Young readers, especially boys, seem enthralled with the contents and eagerly read and talk about various entries. Teachers undoubtedly would also find wonderful reading aloud material in this text. Much information could be used simply as informative and entertaining classroom reading, whereas

specific sections would provide excellent support in content areas such as science and social studies. The record book is a great resource for the classroom teacher. It offers numerous possibilities as an instructional tool and also as a text for demonstrating how useful and how much fun reading can be. *The Guinness Book of World Records* is available at bookstores everywhere and in department stores as well.

The Random House Book of Poetry for Children

Jack Prelutsky (Editor)
Random House, 1983. (\$15.95)

Poetry is often neglected in busy classrooms. Good resources for using poetry in the classroom are numerous, but perhaps the very best of all is the *Random House Book of Poetry for Children*. This text presents nearly 600 poems selected for both literary merit and entertainment value. Children all too often behave as though poetry were a strange and exotic art form having no relevance to their daily lives. The teacher who has the *Random House Book of Poetry for Children* readily available is equipped with a wonderful resource to dispel such notions among children concerning poetry.

The poems are delightful and some can be used in topical situa-

tions (Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc.), whereas the majority can be used at any time. The poems are appropriate even though the text was published in 1983. This is a collection of timeless poems, guaranteed to enrich the classroom. The graceful illustrations of Arnold Lobel add much to the overall beauty of the text. Call Random House at 1-800-733-3000 for information on ordering the *Random House Book of Poetry for Children*.

Teaching Reading: Strategies from Successful Classrooms

Center for the Study of Reading
University of Illinois

Teaching Reading: Strategies from Successful Classrooms is a set of six video tapes describing procedures for encouraging literacy among elementary school students. The tapes are professionally produced and are accompanied by comprehensive manuals. In addition, the manuals provide references to research for those interested in further study concerning the rationale for using certain strategies. Much of the material presented was filmed in classrooms. All of the strategies presented in this series are consistent with the "whole

language" philosophy of instruction.

Specific areas of concentration are 1. Emergent Literacy, 2. The Reading/Writing Connection, 3. Teaching Word Identification, 4. Literacy in Content Area Instruction, 5. Fostering a Literate Culture, and 6. Teaching Reading Comprehension: Experience and Text. Information is presented thoroughly and in a way that makes practical implementation of suggestions seem highly feasible. "Real" children and "real" teachers are presented throughout all six videos.

The *Teaching Reading* videos are a remarkable resource for reading/language arts teachers. Use of individual videos and accompanying discussion among teachers could prove to be very effective for in-service instructional programs and for individual study as well. The cost of all six videos and instructors' guides is \$200.00, with each individual tape available for \$40.00. For information on ordering or receiving the preview tape (\$10.00 rental fee), call the Center at 217-244-4083 or write to University of Illinois-Video, Post Office Box 2276, Station A, Champaign, IL 61825-2276.

Edward J. Dwyer is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at East Tennessee State University. He has taught grades 4 and 6 in Massachusetts and grades 7 and 8 in Alaska.