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In Review

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In Review

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In Review

Edward J. Dwyer
East Tennessee State University

Superstars (2nd edition)

Of Rock
Of Soul
Of Movies and TV
Of Sports
Of Country
Music Hall of Fame

Randal C. Hill
Steck-Vaughn, 1986
(\$3.84 each text)

The term "high-interest, low-vocabulary" has been thrust upon educators by publishers for years but, in reality, "low-interest, mediocre-vocabulary" has often been the case. Not so with the dramatic new **Superstars** series from Steck-Vaughn. Interest level is the selling point for this series. The selections are about individuals and groups known to most students. Randal Hill's writing is lively and includes much personal information about the stars. In this light, the author demonstrates that fame and success is rarely accomplished without much struggle and heartache. This point is made well without the appearance of lecturing students on what they can and should do to succeed.

The texts seem most suited as an instructional tool for capable middle school students and lower-achieving high school students. This is not, however, to say that typical high school students would not

find the content interesting.

Each selection is followed with various types of comprehension exercises. These activities usually require the student to demonstrate recognition of something that occurred in a selection or determine the correct definition of a word as it was used in the selection. Albeit, these are not high level comprehension skills but they are suitable for the target audience. The teacher can readily compose essay or other type questions depending on goals and competence levels of students.

Superstars is just what the reading doctor ordered for reluctant teenage readers. The texts are interesting, relevant, and academically solid. Even competent, avid readers will enjoy them, but the greatest value will be with the students who need this type of material the most. Ordering information is available from Steck-Vaughn at 1-800-531-5015.

Word Wizardry (Level I, grades 2-8)

Flora C. Joy
Pat Harroll (Illustration)
Good Apple (\$10.95)

Word Wizardry is an exciting and ingenious system for providing instruction in

vocabulary and spelling. This system introduces 750 words in Level I. However, much more than merely introducing words transpires. Flora Joy has designed the system so that general word recognition principles are learned in the process of working with the target words presented. In this way, the author has broadened the scope of the system so that information learned has general application. This is indeed, a strong part of the **Word Wizardry** system.

Analysis of the system suggests that there is much truth in the author's claim that students using this approach can gain much in the cognitive dimension while operating primarily in the affective dimension. Thus, Flora Joy appears to have hit on a system for learning and reinforcing reading skills in an atmosphere that's just plain fun.

There are numerous student directed activities described in detail. Also, the teacher can direct activities. For example, the materials lend themselves beautifully to a quiz show format where the teacher presents stimulus cards on an overhead and students compete to report correct answers.

The affective dimension concerning **Word Wizardry** is indeed strong, but that is not the major reason for using the system. The design is academically sound, based on careful analysis of what children need to know to become competent readers. The delivery system is both unique and appealing.

Word Wizardry is available from Good Apple at 800-435-7234. Flora Joy and Pat Harroll have also produced Level II (grades 4-12) in the **Word Wizardry** system. Level II appears to be equally well designed.

Amelia Bedilia (Beats) 3 eggs.



Mary Whitehead
Mrs Rowell
1st grade
12 years of age
Gordonville Elem.
School