TOPIC: Reading/Writing -- Making Judgments

FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES: The skills for this activity focus on reading for information, understanding written material, organizing information in a variety of ways and writing for specific purposes.

INSTRUCTIONS: Students at this level are learning to become flexible in the use of a range of reading and thinking skills to construct and extend meaning from text. These activities develop opportunities to discuss, and extend thinking about text. Before reading the poem, share any situations where you have made judgments, right or wrong, based on personal experiences.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Read the poem "Read Between the Lines".

2. Discuss, with a parent or friend, what the poem is about and why the author chose to call the poem, "Read Between the Lines".

3. Brainstorm instances of judgments being made in the poem and locate them in the text.

4. Prepare a written response to the poem. You may use prompts such as:

   What does this poem make you think about?
   What feelings did you experience?
   I think the author wrote this because .....  
   When ________, I felt ....

5. Share your response with a friend.
Read Between The Lines

The little boy and little girl
Were playing "family."
He was the "daddy" and went to "work."
She did "housework" for "free."
They did the jobs they learned from books,
From pictures that they read.
Pictures which showed what each parent did,
And that's what went on in their heads.

The teacher read a fairy tale
About a girl asleep.
"Her wicked stepmother cast a spell
Which made her sleep real deep."
Little Sally went home that night,
Afraid of what she might find.
Will her dad's new wife put her under a spell?
Was she the wicked kind?

For someone forgot to teach one little thing
A lesson for all little minds.
"Don't believe every word you read,
Think before the ideas you heed,
For even a weed grows from one little seed,
And read between the lines, yes always,
Read between the lines."

Jimmy read couple tales 'bout
Blind men in the town.
The blind men were poor beggar men,
Whose lives were always down.
Now Jimmy hadn't ever met
Someone who couldn't see.
He began to think how horrible
A blind man's life must be!

For someone forgot to teach one little thing
A lesson for all little minds.
"Don't believe every word you read,
Think before the ideas you heed,
For even a weed grows from one little seed,
Read Between The Lines (cont'd)

And read between the lines, yes always,
Read between the lines."

Now boys and girls remember that
To read's a wonderful thing.
Books open your mind to the world
And ideas that they bring.
But take care that you don't forget
That all you read's not true.
Like all ideas in your head —
When reading, think them through.

For someone forgot to teach one little thing
A lesson for all little minds.
"Don't believe every word you read,
Think before the ideas you heed,
For even a weed grows from one little seed,
And read between the lines, yes always,
Read between the lines."
HOME STUDY ACTIVITIES

Language Arts - Grade 6

TOPIC: Media Scrapbook

FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES: By examining a variety of newspapers and collecting and responding to articles, students can develop higher-level thinking skills to construct and extend meaning from journalistic writing. The activities focus on reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials, reading independently, identifying points of view, making judgements and drawing conclusions.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Provide your child with a scrapbook and any newspaper, access to the internet if possible and/or magazines.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Read and clip from the newspaper, the internet and/or magazines, a variety of articles pertaining to one particular issue (poverty, homelessness, politics, etc.)

2. Glue the articles in the scrapbook.

3. Write a response to the articles using any number of the following reading response activities:

   (a) Provide a brief summary of the article you read.
   (b) For what audience do you think the article was written? Why?
   (c) Complete the idea: “This article reminds me of ... ?”
   (d) Complete the idea: “This article made me feel ... ”
   (f) Create dot-dot notes for the article you read.
   (g) Describe the effects of the event in this article on the people who live in your community.
TOPIC: Media Scrapbook

FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES:

- reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials
- reading independently
- identifying points of view
- making judgments and drawing conclusions

INSTRUCTIONS:

Provide your child with a scrapbook and any newspaper, access to the internet and/or magazines.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Read and clip from the newspaper, the internet and/or magazines, editorials about an issue that concerns you.

2. Glue the editorials in the scrapbook.

3. Write your own letter to the editor stating your point-of-view on the issue.

4. Make a copy for your scrapbook and mail the original.