

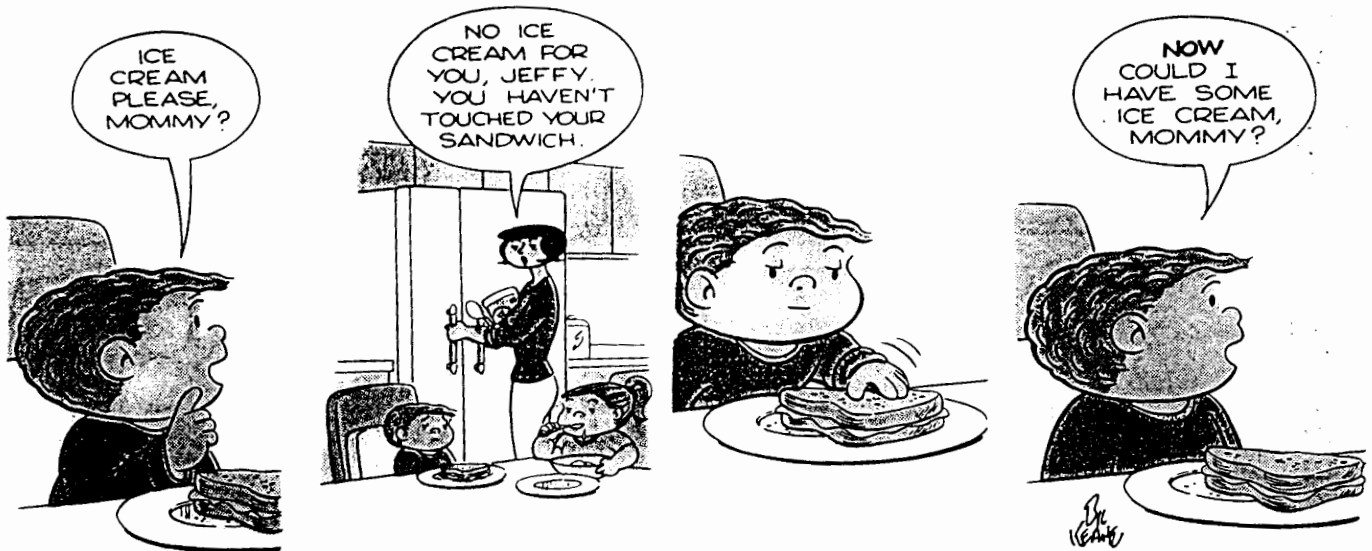
# SAMPLE TEXTS

## FOR

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



7-10

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Sue Barry  
Auburn University

# **SAMPLE READING ACTIVITIES**

## **Applications**

- Objective:** Students develop expectations about the information requested on an application for a high school Rotary exchange Program.
- Text:** International Rotary Youth Exchange Program Application
- Task:** Students scan the application to find the expressions that they anticipated in the pre-reading activity. The integrative task is to interview each other in pairs to find out the information requested on the application.

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### **Prereading Activity:**

Imagine that you are 16 and applying to be an exchange student in a US high school. Brainstorm in Spanish the information that might be requested on the application. Write your notes below.

Skimming/scanning text:

Now search for the English equivalents of the Spanish words in your list on the following application.

How many words did you find? \_\_\_\_\_

Using the form, interview another student and fill out the form for him or her. Change the sentences and phrases to questions by raising your voice at the end of each statement.

Telephone?

SAMPLE 1:

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**INTERNATIONAL ROTARY  
YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
-----

\*\*\*\*Please type\*\*\*\*

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    street                    city                    state                    country

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Brother's names: \_\_\_\_\_ ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Sister's names: \_\_\_\_\_ ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any physical limitations, chronic conditions, allergies, or medical treatments such as orthodontics that require professional attention:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Religious preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you smoke? \_\_\_\_\_

List your favorite pastimes—personal interests or sporting activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you play a musical instrument? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you studied English? \_\_\_\_\_

List the classes that you are taking this semester \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **SAMPLE READING ACTIVITIES**

### **Varied Formats**

**Objective:** Students recognize the principal functions of texts by matching the sample texts to their respective functions.

**Texts:** A variety of authentic texts such as invitations, directions, advertisements, and schedules are presented below.

**Tasks:** Students are asked to match the passages with their functions.  
What might you do for pre-reading?  
What more might you do for skimming and scanning?  
What might you do for an integrative task?

(Match each passage with its function.)

SAMPLE 2:

Persuasion

Warning

Giving information

Giving directions

Invitation

Request

1. We Request the Pleasure of your Company  
at a Reception  
which will be given  
at *The Embassy Hotel*  
*Rue de la Liberté, Paris*  
on *June 19th. (7 p.m.)*

2. 1. Squeeze K2r on the spot and work it in with your finger. (If spot contains water, dry it before using K2r.) 2. Let K2r dry completely to a powder. You may see a darkened area caused by the spot you are "lifting" out. 3. Brush away the powder and the spot is gone. No ring, no trace. Stubborn spots may need second application.

3. **Museum of Fine Arts**  
Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-9300  
**Hours:** Entire Museum (including West Wing): Tues: 10 am-5 pm; Wed., 10 am-10 pm; Thurs. through Sun., 10 am-5 pm. West Wing only: Thurs. and Fri., 5-10 pm. Closed all Mondays, Jan. 1, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 and 25.  
**Admission:** \$4.00 during hours entire Museum is open. \$3.00 during hours West Wing only is open (see above). Members and children 16 and under free. Senior citizens \$3.00. Free to all Saturday, 10 am-12 noon. No admission charged for visitors using only Museum Shop, restaurants, library, and auditorium (depending on program).

4. **DO NOT USE K2r ON:**  
acetate • chamois • fur  
• latex • leather • plastic  
• rubber • suede • var-  
nished surfaces • fallie  
(rayon & cotton blend)  
• satin (rayon) • rayon •  
waterproofed fabrics

5. **WANTED**  
Studio apartment, preferably near public transportation. Excellent references provided. Call 265-4788, 10-3 p.m.

6. **FLORENTINE RESTAURANT**  
*Come and enjoy a new experience in traditional Italian cuisine! Prepare yourself for a new gastronomical experience, fine Italian delicacies prepared with a special flair in truly elegant surroundings.*  
**1425 West Park Avenue**

Illustration 4.16. (Novice/Intermediate-Level reading activity—skimming/getting the gist)

Omaggio

# **SAMPLE READING ACTIVITIES**

## **Real Estate Ads**

**Objective:** Students scan the real estate ads to find houses that meet their specific needs.

**Text:** Real Estate Ads from the Atlanta Constitution

**Task:** Students identify the properties that fit their specific needs

**Related tasks:** Similar exercises can be done with telephone directories, classified ads, movie listings, plane schedules, etc. Scanning exercises are most beneficial when done with time limits and more interesting when the task is authentic.

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### **Pre-reading Activity:**

We will be scanning some real estate listings for condominiums, new homes, and previously owned homes. Let's make a list of some of the vocabulary words we might expect to find in real estate listings. When your list is complete, scan the ads to see how many of the words in your list are used in these advertisements.

### **Scanning Activity:** (10 minute limit)

You are in the market for a new home, and you are scanning the real estate advertisements to make a list of properties you might like to see (Identify the properties by the name of the subdivision or the price of the property if it is not in a subdivision.)

Which properties in the following ads will be on your list if ....

1. You are a new assistant professor at the university with limited funds, but you feel that space for an office at home is a necessity. An additional advantage would be to find a home with hardwood floors.
-

2. You are in the market for a new house with at least four bedrooms. You also want a swimming pool in the subdivision so that your children can walk to the pool. However, the top price you can afford to pay is \$130,000.

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3. You are tired of cutting the grass; so you are looking for a condo that is close to shopping areas.

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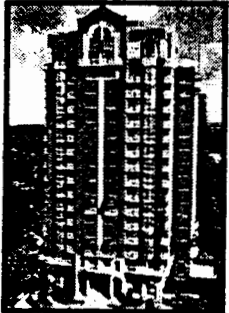
4. You're a graduate student with limited funds and no car. The only real prerequisite you have is that the house must have two bedrooms with room to expand.

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5. You want a pre-owned house that is roomy with both a formal entertaining area and a separate family room.

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## Buckhead



### The Villa

AT BUCKHEAD HEIGHTS

*Priced From*  
**The High \$100's**

New Decorated Model  
Now Open

- 24 Hour On-Site Security
- Fitness Room and Sauna
- Bay Windows and Spacious Balconies
- Swimming Pool with Garden Sundeck
- Walk to Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza

To arrange a personal tour, please call  
**231-4574**  
or visit The Villa today at  
3435 Kingsboro Rd., one block north  
of Peachtree & Lenox Road

**NR** Northside Realty's Builder/Developer Services

## D E K A L B

### The Best Value in town...



**5 bedroom, 2½ bath for only  
\$129,900**

- Over 2500 sq. ft. of living area
- 9' Ceilings on 1st floor
- Master Suite plus 4 large bedrooms
- Large Wooded Homesites
- Private Clubhouse and Swimming Pool
- 10 Year Home Owner Warranty

**YORKSHIRE  
SALES CENTER**  
**987-8528**


DIRECTIONS: Take I-285 to Flat Shoals Road. Go East outside the Perimeter 4 miles to Dogwood Farm Road. Turn Right. Yorkshire Community is immediately on left.

**MORRISON HOMES**

**7 1/2% Fixed Rate**

**NETT/DULUTH**

## INTRODUCING HERRINGTON RIDGE



**Luxurious Ranch & 2-Story Homes  
Starting at \$110,900**

- Stucco and Brick Fronts
- Variety of 3, 4 and 5 Bedroom Floorplans
- Sidewalk Community
- Easy Access to 85 and Gwinnett Place Mall

Directions: --85 N. to Hwy 120 and turn right. At 1st light turn right on Atkinson Rd. Then take 1st right on Herrington Rd. Herrington Ridge is on the right behind Kids-R-Kids.

**Call Helen Schlueter**  
**822-1997**

**D.G. JETKINS HOMES**

## NEW LISTINGS



### ADORABLE AND AFFORDABLE

Great starter home in family setting; move-in-ready. Recently painted throughout; new vinyl floor in updated kitchen and remodeled bath; hardwood floors, two bedrooms plus study with bookshelves and drop-leaf desk; oversized back yard. \$44,900.



### FIRE YOUR LANDLORD!

Cute cottage with easy access to university; large lot-expansion possibilities; recently painted inside and out; two bedrooms, three quarters bath, efficient kitchen, front porch and side deck. \$39,900.



### CONVENIENCE PLUS

What a great little package this is! Central heat and air is new. Hardwood floors under carpet. Terific workshop/storage area. Affordable at \$51,900



### ONE OF A KIND!

This beautiful Victorian home is reminiscent of days gone by. The detailing inside and out adds character and charm. It has a formal living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen and a cozy den coupled with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. All this in one of Auburn's most desirable neighborhoods for only \$139,900.

## CLAYTON COUNTY



### O'HARA VILLAGE "Southern Charm and Elegance" FROM THE '120's

Swim, tennis and private clubhouse community. Wooded lots, underground utilities, street lights, sidewalks, three, four & five bedroom traditional and European Style homes. Very open floor plans.

Open Mon.-Sat. 11-Dusk; Sun. 1-Dusk

### 3% TO CO-OPS! CUSTOM BUILT Quality Homes

Candy Knowles-Bishop 473-4086  
Tara Properties, Inc. 477-0700

Energy Wise Homes  
Directions: I-75 South, Exit 77 to Hwy 19-41 South to Mundy's Mill Road - go right, subdivision ¼ mi. on the right.

Certified by  
Atlanta Gas  
Light Company





# SAMPLE READING ACTIVITIES

## Periodical Literature

**Objective:** Students identify the main idea in an article or story reading only the first and last paragraphs.

**Text:** A short periodical article

**Task:** Students skim the first and last paragraphs of the article and create an appropriate title for the article.  
What other tasks might be appropriate for this text?

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**Pre-reading:** Tell students that the article is from the *Atlanta Constitution*, Sunday, July 9, 1994.

**By Curt Anderson**  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON – Put away those plastic cards converting miles to kilometers. Stop trying to figure out how fast 100 kph really is. The nation's highway signs aren't going metric any time soon.

In another setback for the 200-year-old effort to make the decimal measurement system a reality in the United States, the Clinton administration has quietly backed off plans to convert the signs by 1996.

As part of a 1998 law to move government away from the English system of gallons, pounds and feet, the Federal Highway Administration had told the states it might withhold their share of \$18 billion in road money if the signs weren't changed to metric by Sept. 30, 1996.

But more than 2,200 people wrote the highway administration opposing the plan. Several members of Congress introduced bills to abolish the sign change. Most cited the cost estimated at some \$200 million nationally.

"A majority of the negative responses stated the funds to convert the signs could be better used for repair of roads and bridges or for charitable purposes," Administrator Rodney Slater said in announcing the decision in the Federal Register late last month.

There is now no timetable for converting the highway signs, although Slater said the decision should be considered only a postponement.

Congress earlier this year prohibited use of federal money to help in converting highway signs to metric. Beyond the cost, Slater said it was clear most Americans are unwilling to stop using the familiar English measurements.

While cutting out this article, I inadvertently cut off the title. I need a new title so that I can index the article. Since I am in a hurry, please skim only the first and last paragraphs, and write down an appropriate title for the article.

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## Sample Reading Activities

### Recipes: What are you Going to Cook?

**Pre-reading:**

Answer these questions. When you finish, compare your answers with a partner or in a small group.

1. How often do you cook for yourself?
2. What is the last thing that you cooked?
3. Here are some common food items in a North American diet: Place a check mark in the column to indicate whether or not you like these kinds of foods.

Food	It's one of my favorites.	I like it a lot.	It's ok.	I don't like it much	I don't like it at all
tuna fish					
green peppers					
cheese					
celery					
shrimp					
mayonnaise					
tomatoes					
eggs					
garlic					
spinach					
onions					

4. What do these recipe terms mean?

c.      tbsp.    tsp.      shredded      minced      chopped

5. Skimming Activity: This reading selection consists of three recipes. Skim the three recipes quickly and then answer these questions.

- a. Which is the easiest to cook?
- b. Which is the most complicated to cook?
- c. Which costs the most to cook?
- d. Which do you think tastes the best?
- e. Which is the messiest to cook?
- f. Which takes the longest time to prepare?
- g. Rank these recipes in terms of calories. Which one should a person on a diet eat?      Which one should that person avoid?
- h. Which one would you like to try to cook? Why?
- i. Which one would you not try to cook? Why?

## RECIPES

### EASY TUNA SALAD

2 cans of tuna fish  
2 large tomatoes, diced  
1 c. mayonnaise

3 boiled eggs  
1/2 c. chopped celery  
salt and pepper to taste

1. Put the tuna in a large bowl. Use a fork to break up the tuna.
2. In another bowl, use a fork to break up the boiled eggs. Add the eggs to the tuna.
3. Add all the remaining ingredients. Mix well. For best results, keep in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Serve as a salad or on bread.

### SPINACH AND CHEESE SURPRISE

2 bunches of fresh spinach  
1 c. shredded yellow cheese  
salt to taste

3 eggs  
2 tbsp. butter

1. Cut off the spinach roots. Wash the leaves very well. Boil them for 10 minutes. Drain. Cut them up into small pieces.
2. In a large bowl, beat the 3 eggs for 1 minute. Add the spinach and cheese. Add 1 tbsp. of the butter. Mix well.
3. Use the remaining butter to grease the baking pan. Pour the spinach mixture into the pan.
4. Bake at 375° F (190° C) for 25 minutes. Serve either warm or cool. Makes 4 small servings.

### SIMPLE SHRIMP CREOLE

2 tbsp. finely minced garlic  
3 tbsp. cooking oil  
1 c. finely chopped onions  
1 c. chopped green peppers  
1 c. finely chopped celery  
1 large can of tomato sauce

1/4 c. sugar  
4 c. water  
1 lb. (450 gm.) of raw shrimp, peeled and cleaned  
salt and pepper to taste

1. In a large, heavy pot, fry the garlic in the oil for 5 minutes. Add the other vegetables, Cover. Cook over a low fire for 10 minutes. Stir occasionally.
2. Add the tomato sauce, sugar, and water. Bring this to a boil.
3. Add the shrimp. Cook over a low fire for 15 minutes.
4. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve over rice in a bowl.

Sample 6: TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS: WHAT'S THAT BOOK ABOUT?

**Pre-reading activity:**

Work in a small group or with a partner.

Below is a list of twelve titles. Read the titles carefully. Do you recognize any of these titles?  
Try to imagine what the book could be about.

- A. The Nightmare Years: 1930-1940
- B. Spycatcher
- C. Where is Nicaragua?
- D. My Turn
- E. Three Blind Mice and Other Stories
- F. Midnight Express
- G. Hiroshima
- H. And I Alone Survived
- I. Daughter of Shanghai
- J. A Tale of Two Cities
- K. Wind, Sand, and Stars
- L. Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors

**Reading activity**

Read this information about twelve books. Read the author, the copyright date, and the summary. Then write the title of the book on the line.

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: Antoine de Saint Exupery  
Copyright: 1939

This book describes the adventurous life of a pilot. It talks about the excitement as well as the dangers of being a pilot. The author loves flying. He describes what it is like to be a pilot in different parts of the world in the early part of the twentieth century.

2. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: Billy Hayes with William Hoffer  
Copyright: 1977

In 1970, William Hayes tried to smuggle some drugs out of Turkey. He was caught just before he boarded the plane in Istanbul. This book tells his horrifying prison experiences, which lasted for five years, when he finally succeeded in escaping.

3. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: Lauren Elder  
Copyright: 1978

This is a true drama. A young woman and two friends flew from San Francisco to Death Valley. Flying in the mountains, the pilot chose the wrong pass, and the plane crashed into a mountain, fifteen feet short of the top. All three survived but were badly injured. Shortly after, one friend disappeared down the steep slope. Night came, the temperature dropped, and the two survivors held on to each other for warmth. By morning, the woman was alone. At the edge of the mountain was a nearly vertical drop of more than a mile to the valley floor. She couldn't survive outside in the cold, so she attempted to climb down the wall of ice and rock. This book tells of the author's courage and how she endured against the odds.

4. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: Tsai Chin

Copyright: 1988

In this autobiography, Tsai Chin, the third daughter of Zhou Xinfang, the most influential man of theater in China, tells us about her incredible life in this large Chinese city in the 1920s and 1930s as well as the Japanese occupation, the civil war, and the communist revolution. She also recounts her life in England and America, the deaths of her parents (both of whom died after repeated jailings and torture), and her eventual return to China.

5. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: Agatha Christie

Copy: 1925

This book is a collection of short mysteries by the great mystery writer Agatha Christie. The main story in this collection is the basis for the famous play "The Mousetrap," which became the longest-running play in the English language.

6. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: Charles Dickens

Copyright: 1859

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness." With these famous lines, Charles Dickens opens this dramatic story, which tells of life in Paris and London at the time of the French Revolution. It describes life in one of the world's most chaotic times.

7. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: Nancy Reagan

Copyright: 1989

This book by the wife of a former U.S. president tells of her life both before and during the time when she was the first lady. It became a best-seller because the author revealed many secrets about her life at the White House. In particular, many readers were interested in Nancy Reagan's use of astrology and her version of the attempted assassination of President Reagan. During Reagan's presidency, many things were said about Nancy Reagan. In this book, she tries to tell her side of what happened in the White House.

8. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: Peter Davis

Copyright: 1987

For most of the twentieth century, the U.S. government supported various members of the Somoza family who were running this Central American country. When the Sandinistas took over in 1979, this relationship was upset. This book examines what happened under the Sandinista government.

9. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: William L. Shirer

Copyright: 1984

This book was written by a newspaper reporter who was in Europe during this important period in world history. He was in Nuremberg when Hitler came to power. He was in Berlin when Hitler attacked Poland. Through his first-hand accounts, this journalist recalls the nightmare years of life under Hitler.

10. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: Piers Paul Read  
Copyright: 1974

This is the story of a group of young people on a trip from Uruguay to Chile. Their plane crashed into a mountain peak. The survivors planned an escape: the strongest would attempt to get help. Snowshoes were made from the seats of the airplane. Sunglasses were made from the dead pilots' plastic folder. Seventy days after the crash, two of the young men reached help. The others, rather than die of starvation, made a difficult decision: they used the bodies of their dead companions for food. This book is a heartbreaking and inspiring work that re-creates one of the greatest survival stories of our times.

12. Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: John Hersey  
Copyright: 1946, 1985

On August 6, 1945, a major city in Japan was destroyed by an atomic bomb. This book tells what happened that day. This book examines the lives of a specific handful of people. It tells what those people were doing when the bomb hit, what happened to them afterward, and what they are doing today.

**Integrative Activity:**

In groups, discuss the following questions. After 10 minutes of discussion, be ready to discuss your answers and the reasons.

1. Which books sound the most interesting to you? Choose your first, second, and third choices.

2. Which book do you definitely *not* want to read?