

LIFT™

Literature is For Thinking

PACKET PREPARED BY

Judith Stansfield, Author
B. Ed. (Lang/Lit/Med. Studies)

PLAYING BEATIE BOW

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RATIONALE

The LIFT series provides students with practice in critical-creative thinking and language skills through immersion in books selected for their high literary quality. Literature thus serves as a catalyst for skills interrelation, as well as for enjoyment.

LISTENING, SPEAKING, READING, and WRITING are the four basic channels of communication through language. Underlying these basic channels is CRITICAL-CREATIVE THINKING; it is through developed and reinforced thinking skills that Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing become effective and successful means of communication. The interrelationship of all these skills facilitates the complex process of LITERARY ANALYSIS (understanding plot, setting, characterisation, theme, style, figurative language, imagery, tone) — a process which contributes not only to the understanding of literature but also to its appreciation.

Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing have generally been taught as separate strands in a language arts program, and only recently have critical-creative thinking skills either been taught separately or infused into the curriculum. Little has been done to introduce the fundamentals of literary analysis earlier than secondary school. Such fragmentation often results in inefficient use of time, and ignores the potential richness that an integrated and interrelated language arts approach can provide.