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CHAPTER 1

Reading From the First Day of School

Sharon S. Lancaster

Hopkinsville, Kentucky

He stood in the computer center of my primary first- and second-grade classroom looking around with uncertainty and maybe even fear. His eyes darted to me while I talked with a parent during our open house. School would be starting in a week and this was the “Big Night” to come and meet your teacher and see your classroom. I smiled at him and there was a brief hint of a grin. As I walked over to meet my VIP (Very Important Pupil), he looked somewhat like a deer caught in the headlights. I could tell he really wasn’t sure how he was supposed to respond. I bent down to where we could be eye-to-eye and asked his name. He responded rather timidly. I asked him what he liked to do and what he hoped to learn this year. I will never forget those great big brown eyes looking at me and his quiet voice saying, “I don’t know how to read. I want to learn how to read.”

CHAPTER 3

All for the Love of Reading

A Book Is a Gift

Pamela Jo Roller

Galveston, Indiana

The love of reading is the greatest gift a teacher can give students. To achieve this, students need ample opportunities to read for pleasure. Oftentimes, they read only what is required to get through their daily assignments. My second graders are given the first thirty minutes each morning all year long to read independently. They are allowed and encouraged to go to our school library every day. The students choose their own books to read. Many of the books are for *Scholastic's* Reading Counts Program. This program holds my second graders accountable for their reading. The students read a book and then they take a quiz on the computer. They are asked five questions to check their comprehension, and a record is kept of the students' progress.