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# INTRODUCTION

Aesop's fable *The Hare and the Tortoise* teaches us that slow and steady leads to success. This is surely true with literacy. Mastery requires thoughtful practice spread over a long time.

*Ten-Minute Real World Reading* follows this patient approach. The book offers dozens of short, skill-building activities designed to fit into the busy school day.

## Skills and Applications

The lessons in this book cover key comprehension and fluency skills for both nonfiction and fiction. These include:

- grasping the big idea
- spotting details
- uncovering implicit meanings
- focusing on relevant data
- using context clues
- predicting outcomes
- asking critical questions
- making comparisons.

Such skills gain meaning when used in authentic contexts. Thus, in Part 1, **Everyday Reading**, you'll find activities related to dozens of formats encountered in daily life, such as advertisements, menus, rules, emergency information cards and tables. A number of these projects, such as Responsive Reading and Readers' Theatre, emphasise oral language techniques. Online Interviews and TV News Copy provide experience in multimedia.

Although most of the activities here and throughout the book can be done solo, several lessons involve small or large groups. A prime example is Choral Reading.

Part 2, **Fiction**, develops awareness of nine important elements of fiction, including characterisation, point of view and theme. These concepts are equally relevant whether students are reading short stories or novels. The information gained in this section can also help young writers create more interesting stories themselves.

Part 3, **Study Skills**, links reading to a variety of academic tasks, such as comparing, paraphrasing, and reading recall.

## How to Use the Book

Each lesson consists of a few simple teaching steps. Most lessons include a **reading sample**. For example, the lesson on responsive reading includes three passages that students can perform in small groups. The readings are drawn from all subject areas, in order to emphasise that English skills serve the entire curriculum.

# ADVERTISEMENTS

Learning to make sense out of advertisements provides practice in critical thinking.

## DIRECTIONS:

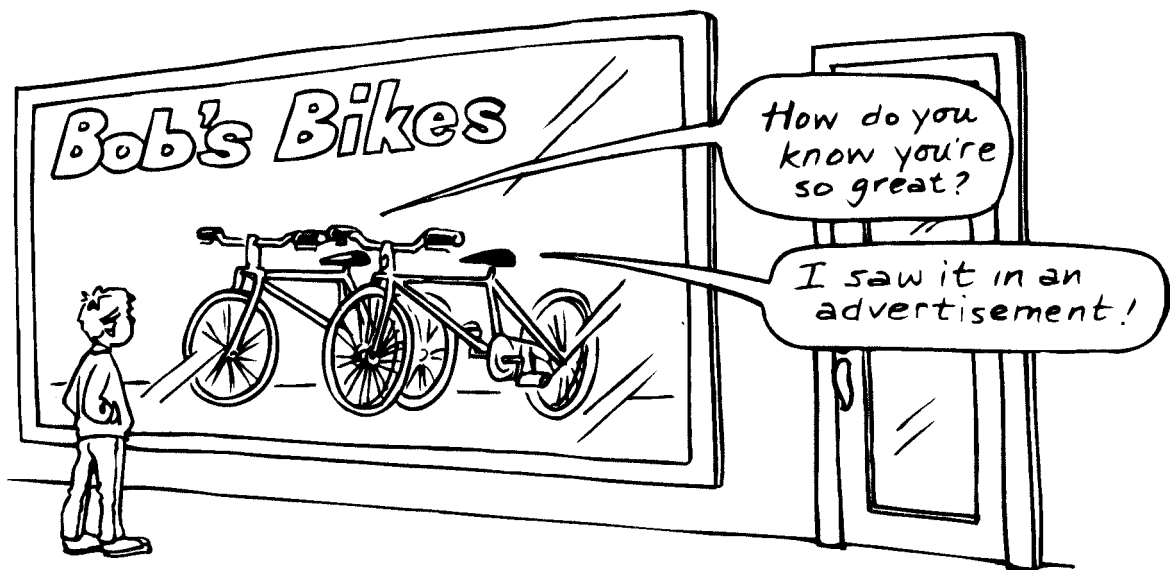
1. Give each student a copy of the sample advertisement on the next page.
2. Have students read the advertisement and answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.
3. Discuss the answers. Point out some of the slippery language and unsubstantiated claims. For example, while Bestway bicycles might be made of the finest materials, other bicycles might be made of the same materials.

## EXTENSION:

Have students collect ads from newspapers and magazines, and then write advertisement reports that analyse the messages. These reports can be shared orally or on a bulletin board. Students might also send their comments to the advertisers.

### Answers for next page:

1. No
2. Ten colours
3. Yes
4. Can't tell
5. Can't tell
6. Can't tell
7. Can't tell
8. The advertiser



# Sample Advertisement

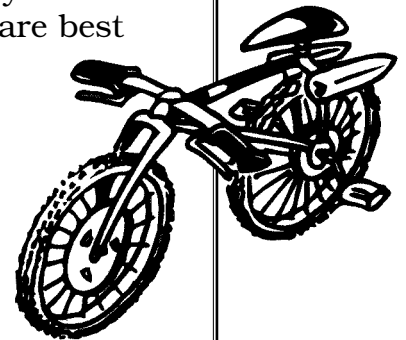
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Read the following advertisement. Then answer the questions below.

## Buy a Bestway Bicycle for the Ride of your Life

Some people are satisfied with any old bicycle. But our Bestway bicycles are made for people who really love to ride. Serious bicyclists know that our bicycles are best because:

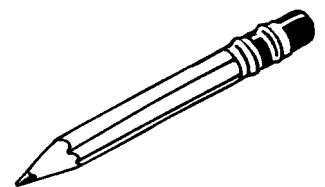
- They're made of the finest materials.
- They're tested under all conditions.
- They last longer than most other bikes.
- They come in ten vibrant colours.
- They have great balance.
- They offer pillow-soft seats.
- They feature 'Sure-Stop' brakes.



If you love bicycling, you'll love riding a Bestway Bike, the best bicycle in the world.

### Questions:

1. Can you tell how well Bestway bicycles have done when tested?
2. How many colours do Bestway bicycles come in?
3. Is it possible that some brands last longer than Bestway bikes?
4. Do Bestway bicycles come in more colours than other brands?
5. Do Bestway bicycles have better balance than other bicycles?
6. Are Bestway seats more comfortable than seats on other bicycles?
7. What's good about 'Sure-Stop Brakes'?
8. Who says Bestway bikes are the 'best' in the world?



# Choral Reading Cards

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## Poem

How doth the little crocodile  
Improve his shining tail,  
And pour the waters of the Nile  
On every golden scale!  
How cheerfully he seems to grin,  
How neatly spreads his claws,  
And welcomes little fishes in  
With gently smiling jaws!

Lewis Carroll

## Fable

One day a fox fell into a well. He struggled to keep his head above water. Then he heard footsteps. He looked up and saw a wolf at the top of the well.

The wolf said, 'Oh, poor fox, I feel so sorry to see you in this trouble'. Tears begin to roll down the wolf's snout.

The fox said, "Wolf, it is kind of you to be sorry for me. But if you really want to help, don't just stand there. Go find a rope and pull me up'.

The moral is: Action speaks louder than words.

Aesop

## A Fact about your Heart

Where is your heart? Try this. Put your hand over the place where you think the heart is.

If you're like most people, your hand is on the left side of your body. You might feel something going thump thump, thump thump. But it is not your heart. It's a big blood vessel called the aorta. The aorta carries blood from the heart throughout the body. But the heart itself lies mainly in the middle of your chest. If your hand isn't in the middle, move it there now.

Adapted from an encyclopedia