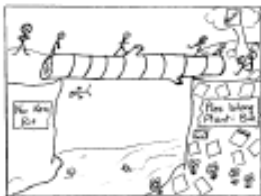


The Reading Bridge

Nancy Seale



This chart has been a great help in our literacy programme. It shows a man in the land of DON'T READ. It is a barren, uninteresting place. He sees his friend in the PLACE OF MANY BOOKS, and he envies his friend. How can he join his friend on the other side?

The log bridge is put across the river. The bridge is made up of all the books in the primer series. This series will get him to the place where he can read newspapers, write letters, learn about agriculture, read the Bible, etc.

This chart is very useful in advertising our reading classes.

1. It gives the non-reader a sense of missing out.
2. It shows him the aim of reading.
3. It prepares him for the fact that in the beginning, reading is hard work and some drop out. It can help him determine to keep working until he reaches the goal. The man sleeping on the bridge near the end of the programme is someone who finishes the course, but doesn't keep reading. What will happen if he falls asleep here? He will fall off the bridge and be back where he started.

It is a help to the students in the reading programme.

The name of each student is pinned on the bridge and as he finishes a

book he is given a clap and his name is moved on to the next book. He can see his progress. He can tell when he has finished (and when he has not finished), and he keeps in mind his goal. The charts are about 70cm x 85 cm. They are hung in our classrooms and also in our churches where as yet we have no classes.

Nancy Seale works with the Nazarene Mission. The classes are mainly in Melanesian Pidgin. She has been a primary school teacher in Australia and PNG and has been in literacy for the last five years.

From READ Vol 14 No. 2 October 1979

The next bridge to cross is the bridge to English where there are even more books than in most vernaculars. Doris Graham drew the pictures below for the bridging course held at Ukarumpa.

