

INTRODUCTION

Consonants on Parade is a multimedia series of 12 lessons designed to supplement and individualize reading instruction for students in grades 2 through 4. The program focuses on the visual and aural recognition of the consonant letters. The lessons employ audio media and three reproducible activity sheets. This combination of media allows students to work independently, with the audio providing an external support system which enables students to increase recognition and recall of the consonants and their sounds.

Each audio-directed lesson begins with a lively introduction which sets the stage for the letter or letters to be studied. Special effects and lively dramatizations featuring humorous story characters are used to heighten students' interest in the material to be learned. The audio narrator then guides the students through written exercises on the student response sheets. Games, rhymes, puzzles, secret messages, and illustrations are just a few of the ideas used to create interest in the lessons. Most exercises are grouped around a specific consonant so that students may practice recognizing and using that consonant.

Although the program is designed to be used in second through fourth grade, it can be a valuable tool in remedial work at higher grade levels.

Because of the individual response times necessary to complete the exercises on the activity sheets, *Consonants on Parade* lessons can be used most effectively on an individual basis. However, the program may be used by small groups of students who are performing at approximately the same level in reading.

Every effort has been made to make all elements of the program enjoyable to students. All lessons are self-directing and self-correcting, which allows students to work through the lessons at an independent rate and to evaluate their performances privately.

USING THE PROGRAM

The Audio

The audio lessons in *Consonants on Parade* employ a variety of motivational techniques which are designed to capture and hold the interest of students. Each audio lesson begins with an entertaining introduction. The student is then carefully guided through the entire lesson by a narrator who uses a friendly, positive approach to reading instruction. Immediate evaluation of student responses and additional instruction for difficult concepts give the students strong personal support.

Each audio with its accompanying activity sheets is a self-contained lesson. Timed pauses are included in the audio to allow the student to complete brief responses on the activity sheets. However, when more than a few seconds are needed to complete a response, the student is told to stop the audio and complete the work. As an added reminder, the audio contains an electronic tone which signals the student to stop the player. When the audio is started again, the narrator assists the student in checking his or her work. Students should be reminded that they may stop the audio whenever additional response time is needed, or to replay any material they may wish to hear again.

The use of headsets is recommended to avoid distracting other students in the classroom and to reinforce the interaction between student and narrator. The running times of the audio average approximately 15 minutes. The average working time of each lesson is about 25 minutes. It should be remembered that this time is only an approximation. Since the student stops and starts the player several times during the course of each lesson to read material or to complete exercises, the actual time needed will depend on the student's working speed.

The Activity Sheets

Three illustrated reproducible activity sheets are used in each lesson of the program. The activity sheets offer a variety of skill-building games and enjoyable activities which are closely correlated with the audio instruction. All activities are completed by the student as the audio presentation progresses.

In a few instances, an activity page contains an exercise which requires the use of special materials such as a ruler or a pair of scissors. These pages are clearly marked in the lesson summaries.

Responses for all exercises on the activity sheets are checked by the narrator. If you wish students to mark their mistakes, or to correct their work as they go along, be sure to explain this before the lesson has begun.

The Teacher's Guide

This guide contains individual summaries of the 12 lessons in the program. Each summary lists the skills objectives of the lesson, a description of each written activity, and reproductions of all student activities with answers overprinted.

Included in the final pages of this guide are several creative followup activities which may be used with small groups of students to reinforce the skills taught in the program.

