CHAPTER VIII

ANALYSIS OF SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

Objectives of supplementary reader -
Preparation of supplementary readers -
Analysis of supplementary readers -
Summary of findings.

According to the syllabus,

the aim should be to provide interesting reading material that will stimulate a desire to read English further.

Although supplementary reading is essential, it should not be introduced until students are ready for it. The supplementary reading should supplement, not overlap, the main lessons.

Summary of findings:

1. The objectives of supplementary readers are to:
   a. provide additional reading material
   b. encourage reading beyond the classroom
   c. reinforce concepts learned in class

2. The preparation of supplementary readers should:
   a. be based on the students' reading level
   b. include a variety of genres and topics
   c. be aligned with the main lessons

3. The analysis of supplementary readers will include:
   a. their impact on students' reading proficiency
   b. student feedback on the supplementary material
   c. comparison with other supplementary readers

4. The summary of findings will discuss the effectiveness of the supplementary readers and suggest improvements for future use.
Objectives of supplementary reader

A supplementary reader is meant for consolidation of language items the pupils have already learnt, practice in rapid intelligent silent reading, enlargement of recognition vocabulary and the development of interest in extensive reading. Champion\(^1\) says:

The aim should be independent reading in which the teacher should help as little as possible........ The detailed reading lesson is essentially a place for careful teaching, the non-detailed lesson is essentially a place for no teaching or the minimum of teaching.

According to the syllabus,\(^2\)

the aim should be two fold:

(1) to provide interesting reading material that will stimulate a desire to read English further;

(2) to introduce pupils to English literature through simplified versions of the classics, incidents from great stories, mythology, etc.


The content of the book should be appropriate to the age and interest of pupils. The book should be easy to read. Ahuja\textsuperscript{3} observes:

\begin{quote}
The easier the language of the book, the greater would be the love for books.
\end{quote}

**Preparation of supplementary readers**

In Kerala the supplementary readers in English have not been nationalised. Books are referred for recommendation to the experts nominated by a textbook committee or review committee which in turn is nominated by the Director of Public Instruction. Usually the Chairman of the committee is the Director of Public Instruction. A publisher sends a book to the Director of Public Instruction for recognition. The Director of Public Instruction then sends the book for review by experts. The review committee then sits with the experts and decides whether a particular book is to be recognised or not.

The supplementary readers prescribed for study for secondary school pupils since 1962 were analysed. The findings are given below, bookwise.

The following supplementary readers were prescribed for study in the high school classes during the year 1952-53.

\begin{flushright}
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1. Choice Stories from East and West

No. of stories: 11  No. of pages: 67

The scope of the book is within the range of the pupil's comprehension. The themes and treatment are interesting, informative and varied and help to motivate pupil's interest in reading. The subject matter is presented in an organised sequence, proceeding from simple to complex. The book contains some difficult words which are burdensome to pupils. Some of the sentences are too long. However, the book is simpler than the textbook. Illustrations are sufficient and appropriately placed and appealing to pupils. Exercises are not given. Glossary of new words is not provided. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils and binding is convenient to handle. The cover is appealing. The printing is clear and suitable for the age group. The spacing between the words and lines is suitable.

2. Story Behind

No. of chapters: 10  No. of pages: 57

The general idea of this book is to show that behind familiar objects and well-known persons there is to be found many interesting little details which we often do not know or care to know. The book deals with a wide range of objects as
"soap, Shakespeare, match-boxes" and "the common cold". The themes are interesting and instructive. There are some difficult words which need explanation. The book contains no illustration. This is a draw-back of the book. Three or four questions are given at the end of each lesson. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The cover is appealing. A short preface is given. The printing is clear and suitable for the age group. The spacing between the words and lines is suitable.

Form V

1. Adventures of Gulliver in Lilliput

   No. of chapters: 15
   No. of pages: 78

   (Abridged)

   This book deals with the adventures of Gulliver in Lilliput which are appealing to pupils. The language is simple. The book is suitable for the age group. The chapters are properly graded. Illustrations are relevant and appropriate to the reading material and suitably placed, and are appealing to pupils. Exercises are not given. The type used in printing is large enough to facilitate easy reading. The size of the book is suitable for the age group.

2. Kidnapped

   No. of chapters: 29
   No. of pages: 126

   (Abridged)

   The story is interesting, though long. The book is
a simplified version. The chapters are small. A merit of the book is that it contains enough conversational English. Some of the sentences are too long and complicated. A large number of difficult words are used. The words denoting names of characters in the story are difficult for pupils to pronounce and spell. The book contains no illustration. Exercises are not given.

The size of the book is suitable for the pupils and binding is convenient to handle. The printing is clear and bold.

3. Uncle Tom's Cabin

No. of chapters: 24
No. of pages: 132

The theme is interesting. The book provides for ample dialogue. There is no illustration. Exercises are not given. The size of the book is suitable for the age group and the binding is convenient to handle. The cover is attractive. The paper is good and printing clear. The spacing between the words and lines is suitable.

4. Little women

No. of chapters: 13
No. of pages: 149

"Little women" is one of the great American classics which is suitable for the age group. The reading material is
interesting to pupils and the scope of the book is within their range of comprehension. The language is simple and in current standard English. The book introduces enough elegant conversational English. There is no illustration in the book. Exercises are not given.

The following supplementary Readers were prescribed for study during 1953-54.

**Form IV**

1. **Famous Stories Retold**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of stories: 7</th>
<th>No. of pages: 47</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

   This book contains seven stories which are appealing to pupils. The language is simple. There is enough provision for conversational English. Glossary of new words is not given. The illustrations are relevant and appropriate to the reading material, and suitably placed. A few comprehension questions are given at the end of each story. But they have no sufficient variety in them. The printing is clear, bold and suitable for the age group.

2. **Great Lives**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No. of lessons: 8</th>
<th>No. of pages: 465</th>
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   The book consists of eight short studies on the lives of great personalities, who have distinguished themselves
in the world by noble qualities as patriotism and devotion to duty. Their lofty ideals and achievements will inspire pupils and instil in them a desire to walk in their footsteps and serve mankind. The words and phrases used are of almost every day occurrence. The illustrations are relevant and suitably placed. Exercises are given at the end of each lesson.

Form V

1. Kidnapped

2. Short Lives of great Indians

   No. of lessons: 7
   No. of pages: 78

This book is a collection of the lives of great Indians. It is told in simple, idiomatic English to suit the needs of pupils. Illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. Notes and exercises are given at the end of each lesson which are useful for the pupils as well as teachers. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. Printing is clear and bold.

Form VI

1. Stories from Shakespeare

   No. of stories: 8
   No. of pages: 52
This book contains eight stories through which the author has rendered the plays of Shakespeare in language easily grasped by the pupils. The themes are interesting and informative. The illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. A large number of questions are given at the end of each story. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The type used in printing is large enough to facilitate easy reading.

2. Three Great Heroes

This book consists of biographical sketches of three great personalities who have made their contribution to the progress of the world. The language is simple and the new words are only limited in number. The scope of the book is within the range of the pupil's comprehension. The book has no illustration. Exercises are not given. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The printing is clear and bold. The general get up of the book is not appealing.

All the books prescribed for study during 1953-54 were allowed to continue for 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57.

The following books were prescribed for study during 1957-58.

Std.IX

1. Famous Stories Retold
2. Great Lives

(Continued)
Std.X

1. Kidnapped (Continued)

2. Inspired Lives

No. of lessons: 11  No. of pages: 80

This book contains short biographies of eleven great men and women of the world whose aims and achievements will leave lasting impression on the minds of pupils, which will continue to inspire human effort. The language is simple. The pictures of all the greatmen are given. A few comprehension questions are added at the end of each lesson. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The printing is clear and bold.

Std.XI

1. Stories from Shakespeare (Continued)
2. The Great Heroes (Continued)

The following books were prescribed for study for 1958-59.

Std.X

Famous Stories Retold (Continued)
Std. X

1. The children of the New Forest

No. of chapters: 35  No. of pages: 104

This is a famous English classic retold in simple language suitable for the pupils. The book is written within a vocabulary of 2000 words. It contains enough conversational English. The illustrations are relevant and appropriate to the reading material and suitably placed. Questions on each chapter to test the pupil's comprehension are added at the end of the book. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The printing is clear and bold.

Std. XI

1. We plan for prosperity

No. of chapters: 12  No. of pages: 95

This is a good book which attempts to outline in simple language, the major aspects of India's development plans. The language materials and subject matter are presented in an organised sequence, proceeding from simple to the complex. The book contains enough elegant, conversational English. The illustrations are relevant and appropriate to the reading material and suitably placed. Exercises are not given. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The type used in printing is large enough to facilitate easy reading.
2. Tales from Tagore

No. of chapters: 6  No. of pages: 76

The stories in this book are written within a vocabulary of about 2000 words. Glossary of new words is not given. The language is simple. The stories are appealing to pupils. The scope of the book is within range of pupil's comprehension. The illustrations are relevant and appropriate and suitably placed. Four or five questions are given at the end of each chapter. But they have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the age group and convenient to handle. The cover is attractive. The printing is clear and bold.

All the books prescribed for 1958-59 were allowed to continue for 1959-60.

The following books were prescribed for study during 1960-61.

Std. VIII

1. Famous stories Retold  (Continued)

Std. IX

1. Strange Tales from Arabian Nights

No. of stories: 7  No. of pages: 98

The stories are interesting to pupils and they are told within a vocabulary of 2500 words. The book contains
enough conversational English. Language is suitable. Glossary of new words is not given. Illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. Three or four questions are given from each story at the end of the book. The questions are stereotyped. The book has a preface which is useful for pupils as well as teachers. The printing is clear and bold. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils.

Std. X

1. We plan for prosperity

2. Oliver Twist

No. of chapters: 25
No. of pages: 106

This is an adapted and simplified version of the famous story. Glossary of new words is not given. The language is simple. The theme is of universal interest. The book provides for enough dialogue. The illustrations are appropriately placed. A few questions are given at the end of the book. The types of questions have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The cover indicates the theme of the book. Printing is clear and bold. This is a good book for the age group.

All the books prescribed for study during 1960-61 were allowed to continue for 1961-62.
The following supplementary readers were prescribed for study during 1962-63.

Std.VIII

1. Gulliver in Lilliput

No. of chapters: 15  No. of pages: 80

This book gives in simple style the famous story of "Gulliver in Lilliput". It is written in a little vocabulary of about one thousand words. The words and sentence structures are simple. The content is appropriate to the age and interest of pupils. Illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. Comprehension questions are given at the end of each chapter. The types of questions have no variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. Printing is clear and bold. This is a good book for the age group.

Std.IX

Strange Tales from Arabian Nights  (Continued)

Std.X

Oliver Twist  (Continued)

The following were the supplementary readers prescribed for 1963-64.
This is an adapted and simplified version of the famous story. A list of new words is given. The language is simple and the scope of the book is within the range of the pupil's comprehension. The theme is interesting. There is enough conversational English. Illustrations are clear and suitably placed. A few questions are given at the end of the book. But they do not have sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The cover is durable. But it does not indicate the theme of the book. The printing is clear and bold.

The original versions have been rewritten with a view to eliminating some of the more difficult constructions and vocabulary. The language is suitable for the pupils of this level. The theme is of universal interest. All the passages
deal with one aspect or another of man's struggle with his environment. The material is interesting to pupils. The illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. Exercises are given at the end of the book. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The colour combination in the cover is attractive. The printing is clear and bold. The book has a good preface which is of help to pupils as well as teachers.

2. Kashmir Holiday

No. of chapters: 13 No. of pages: 69

This is a true story of a holiday in Kashmir, which is one of India's greatest tourists' attractions. It is written in a limited vocabulary. Glossary of new words is not given. The language is simple. A short preface is given. Illustrations are clear, attractive and appropriately placed. Two or three comprehension questions are given at the end of the book. The questions have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The cover is attractive and indicates the theme of the book. The printing is clear and bold.

All the books prescribed for study during 1963-64 were allowed to continue for 1964-65.

The following supplementary readers were prescribed for study during 1965-66.
Std.VIII

Robinson Crusoe

No. of chapters: 13
No. of pages: 62

This famous story is written in a limited vocabulary and the scope of the book is within the range of pupils comprehension. List of new words used in the book is given. The language is simple and in current standard English. The illustrations are relevant, appropriate and suitably placed. Questions are given at the end of each chapter to test the pupils comprehension. The size of the book is suitable for the age group and convenient to handle. The cover is not attractive and it does not indicate the theme of the book. The printing is clear and bold. This is a good book for the age group.

Std.IX

The Count of Mounte Christo (Continued)

Std.X

Kashmir Holiday (Continued)

The following books were prescribed for study during 1966-67.
Std. VIII

1. Robinson Crusoe

(Continued)

Std. IX

1. Tales from Tagore

(Continued)

Std. X

1. Silas Marner

No. of chapters: 18

No. of pages: 98

This book is written within a limited vocabulary of 2000 words except a few words essential to the background and atmosphere of the story. Glossary of new words is not given. The scope of the book is within the range of the pupil's comprehension. The language is simple and in current standard English. The story is appealing to pupils. The illustrations are relevant, appropriate and suitably placed. A few questions are given at the end of the book to test the pupil's comprehension. The questions are stereotyped and have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the age group and convenient to handle. The cover is appealing and indicates the theme of the book. The colour combination in the cover is attractive. The printing is clear and bold. The general get up of the book is attractive.

2. The story of my life

No. of chapters: XXIII

No. of pages: 100
This book is written in a limited vocabulary of 2000 essential words. The language is suitable for the age group. The book is appealing to pupils. Illustrations are appropriately placed. Exercises are not given. The book has an introduction. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The printing is clear and bold. This is a good book for the age group.

The following are the books prescribed for high school classes during 1967-68.

Std. VIII

Coral Island

No. of chapters: 13
No. of pages: 75

This is an adapted and simplified version of the famous story. The language is simple, modern and idiomatic. A list of new words which are outside the prescribed vocabulary together with their meaning is given at the end of the book. The dialogue in the book gives opportunities for pupils to acquaint themselves with the tenor of English speech. The theme is of universal interest. The illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. The questions given at the end of the book have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the age group. The printing is clear and bold.

Std. IX

1. Tales from Tagore (Repetition)
Std. X

1. Silas Marner (Continued)
2. The Story of my life (Continued)

All the books prescribed for study during 1967-68 were allowed to continue for 1968-69.

The following books were prescribed for study for 1969-70.

Std. VIII
Coral Island (Continued)

Std. IX
Oliver Twist (Repetition)

Std. X

1. Nicholas Nichleby

No. of chapters: 22 No. of pages: 106

This is an adapted and simplified version relating to the chief events of the story. It is written within a limited vocabulary of 2000 words. This book contains new words and structures already learnt by the pupils. Glossary of new words is not provided. The language is simple and theme interesting to the age group. The illustrations are clear and appropriately placed.

A few comprehension questions are given at the end of the book. The types of questions have no sufficient variety
The size of the book is suitable for the pupils and the cover is attractive. Paper is white and smooth and printing is clear and bold. The book has a short preface too.

2. The story of my life

The following books were prescribed for study during 1970-71.

Std. VIII
Coral Island

Std. IX
Oliver Twist

Std. X
1. Nicholas Nickelby

2. Albert Einste!B

No. of chapters: 13
No. of pages: 114

This book is written with restricted vocabulary in accordance with the syllabus. Sentence structures are simple. The book contains mostly the words and structures already learnt by the pupils. Glossary of new words is given. Eighty-six words outside the vocabulary of the syllabus are also given. The book is interesting to pupils. The illustrations are clear and appropriately placed. Nineteen comprehension questions are given. They are stereotyped and have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for
the pupils. The printing is clear and bold. This is a good book for the age group.

The following books were prescribed for study during 1971-72.

Std. VIII

Three great Lives

No. of chapters: 27
No. of pages: 100

This book is written within the linguistic level of the pupils of Std. VIII. Glossary of new words is not given. The biographies of the great men are interesting to pupils. The language is suitable. There is ample provision in the book for dialogue. There is no illustration. Comprehension questions are given at the end of the book. The size of the book is suitable for the age group. Printing is clear and bold.

Std. IX

Oliver Twist (Continued)

Std. X

1. Nicholas Nichleby (Continued)
2. Albert Einsteeen (Continued)

The following books were prescribed for study during 1972-73.

Std. VIII

The Great Lives (Continued)
The story is retold within a limited vocabulary. The theme is of universal interest. It is informative too. Glossary of new words is not provided. Language is suitable.

The book contains words and structures already learnt by the pupils. The book is written in current standard English and the scope of the book is within the range of pupils comprehension. The outlook of the writer is modern. This book will encourage extensive reading. Another advantage is that the book provides ample opportunities to elegant conversational English, which will acquaint the pupils with the tenor of English speech. Illustrations are appropriately placed. But a few of them are not clear. Twenty-seven questions are given at the end of the book covering the 26 chapters. The exercises have no sufficient variety in them. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils of the age group. The cover is appealing and attractive and the cover design indicates the theme of the book. The printing is clear and bold. It is a good travel book which may achieve its aim and
lead on the pupils in the pleasant and profitable paths of learning.

The following books were prescribed for study during 1973-74.

Std. VIII

Three Great Lives (Continued)

Std. IX

Silas Marner (Continued)

Std. X

1. Round the world in eighty days (Continued)

2. Lost Horizon

No. of chapters: 11

No. of pages: 94

This is a story book abridged and simplified. It is written within a vocabulary of 2000 words. This book satisfies the requirements of pupils with regard to the kind of language that they should be familiar with. The theme and treatment are interesting. The outlook of the writer is modern. Illustrations are appropriately placed. Notes and questions are given at the end of the book. But the types of exercises have no sufficient variety in them. The list of contents is not given. The size of the book is suitable for the age group and convenient to handle. The cover is appealing and attractive and it indicates the theme of the book. The colour combination in the cover is attractive. The
printing is clear and bold. The spacing between the words and lines is suitable. The general get up of this book is attractive. The story is not direct in its appeal and far beyond the natural grasp of the pupils. The plot and treatment are not within the easy reach of pupils and hence we cannot expect that pupils will read the book independently of the teacher, with pleasure and with a sense of achievement.

The following supplementary readers were prescribed for study during 1974-75.

Std. VIII

Three great lives

(Continued)

Std. IX

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

No. of chapters: 24  No. of pages: 63

This is a simplified version of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The language is simple. Only structures taught upto Std. VIII and in the first half of Std. IX have been used in this book. Meanings of some of the difficult words are given in the glossary. The adventures of Huckleberry Finn who longed to discover the wonderful world on and around the great Mississippi, are interesting to pupils. The book provides enough opportunities for conversational English. There is no illustration. Comprehension questions are given
at the end of the book. The size of the book is suitable for
the age group. The printing is clear and bold.

Std.X

1. Round the world in eighty days (Continued)
2. Lost Horizon (Continued)

The following supplementary readers were prescribed
for study in the high school classes during 1975-76.

Std.VIII

A Christmas Carol

No. of chapters: 4 No. of pages: 30

This is a popular story of Charles Dickens. The
story is interesting to pupils. The book is very small. The
language is simple. Meanings of some of the difficult words
are given at the end of the book. There is enough conversa-
tional English which the pupils should be familiar with. The
words denoting names of characters in the story are difficult
for pupils to pronounce and spell. Absence of illustration is
a draw back of the book. A few comprehension questions are
given at the end of the book. A glance at the introduction
will help the pupil know something about the author, the
quality of his work and his aims.

Std.IX

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (Continued)
This supplementary reader is very easy to read and quite suitable for the age group. It contains the words and structures already learnt by the pupils. But there are some words in the book which are likely to impede comprehension. The content is interesting to pupils. It is suited to the standard of the class. Enough conversational English is included in the book. There is no illustration. A few comprehension questions are given for each chapter, at the end of the book. The book has no list of contents. The size of the book is suitable for the pupils. The printing is clear and bold.

Summary of findings

The following are the important findings of the analysis of supplementary readers.

The number of supplementary readers has been decreased in standards VIII and IX over the period. Content and language have been made easier in later books. The standard of attainment in English expected in the supplementary
readers has gone down. However, the later books enable pupils to revise the structures and vocabulary already learnt. Some of the supplementary readers are repetitions. More books on travels, biographies, stories from ancient literature, stories from other lands, accounts of exploration, adventures and achievement in science can be produced with great care.