

1952

# A survey of the reasons for the likes and dislikes of first grade children in the Row, Peterson Basal Reader, Round About

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Thesis

A SURVEY OF THE REASONS FOR THE LIKES AND DISLIKES  
OF FIRST GRADE CHILDREN IN THE ROW, PETERSON  
BASAL READER, ROUND ABOUT.

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## INTRODUCTION

Reading occupies a major portion of the first grade program. It should be an interesting and an enjoyable experience. Since children learn more easily that which is interesting, it seems advisable to discover from the children themselves what type of story they like to read and why.

This study is an attempt to determine children's likes and dislikes for stories in the basal reader, Round About.<sup>1</sup> Their reasons for these preferences will be analyzed also.

This is one part of a group project.

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<sup>1</sup>Mabel O'Donnell and Alice Carey, The Alice and Jerry Series, Round About, Row, Peterson and Company, 1941.



## CHAPTER I

### PLAN OF STUDY

This study is an attempt to investigate the reasons why children like or dislike stories included in a first grade basal reader, Round About.

#### PROCEDURE

Materials: The initial plans were to select five stories of each of the following types: informational, imaginative, humorous, and fantastic. After careful consideration of basal and supplementary texts it was decided that since the majority of schools used basal readers the study would be confined to basal readers on the level that was taught. Therefore, all children in three first grade classrooms were presented stories from the Row, Peterson First Reader, Round About. The basal reader used was a different one from the one in use in the classroom.

Presentation: To avoid any discrepancies which might have resulted from the children's inability to read, the stories were read by the teacher. The children were not told that they were to be asked about the story. All twenty-four stories were presented in this manner. It was possible to present one story in the early morning and another in the early afternoon. Since one story might lend itself better to one presentation, a rotation method of checking the stories was used.

The twenty-four stories were divided into three groups, eight stories in each group. Each story was checked in three different ways, one group answered oral questions, one pictured the story and the other responded

to yes and no questions. Each story was checked in three different ways, one classroom gave an oral response as to whether or not they liked or disliked the story and why; a second classroom pictured the same story; while a third classroom was checked for the comprehension of the story. For example the story, "Quack-Quack the Fisherman", of Group C was read in three classrooms, classroom I was checked for comprehension; classroom II gave an oral response as to whether or not they liked or disliked the story; classroom III pictured the same story. Oral response was considered as the constant, as this was the most reliable measure at Grade I level due to the children's inability to write their own reactions.

Table I shows the rotation plan used for the three groups.

TABLE I

PLAN OF ROTATION

Stories	Classroom I	Classroom II	Classroom III
Group A 8	Oral Response	Picture Response	Comprehension Response
Group B 8	Picture Response	Comprehension Response	Oral Response
Group C 8	Comprehension Response	Oral Response	Picture Response

The stories in Group A were checked in Classroom I for oral response; Classroom II for picture response; and in Classroom III for comprehension. Stories in Group B. were checked in Classroom I for picture response; in Classroom II for comprehension; and in Classroom III for oral response. Stories in Group C were checked in Classroom I for comprehension; in Classroom II for oral response; and in Classroom III for picture response. By using the Rotation Plan the stories were all checked in three ways.

The stories in the respective groups follow on the next page.

The stories in the respective groups are as follows:

Group A

	Page
1. The Toy Mender.....	15
2. The Ride to the Farm.....	48
3. Summer Time.....	64
4. Spring Time.....	74
5. At Bobby's and Billy's House.....	94
6. Little Deer's Spots.....	136
7. Paddy's Pets.....	156
8. In the City.....	199

Group B

1. Pears for Pauline.....	25
2. The New Home.....	54
3. Autumn Time.....	68
4. The Old Car.....	78
5. Blue Barns.....	100
6. The Big New World.....	141
7. Good Coasting Today.....	167
8. Ting-a-ling Again.....	199

Group C

1. Quack-Quack the Fisherman.....	3
2. The Big Red Truck.....	38
3. The Birthday Party.....	58
4. Winter Time.....	71
5. The Ride to the City.....	85
6. The Blue Pool.....	118
7. Little Deer's Antlers.....	145
8. Ting-a-ling!.....	183

In order not to influence their interest or affect their responses no previous motivation other than, "Would you like me to tell you a story?" was given. No pictures were shown for the same reasons. In checking oral responses, immediately after reading the story, the children were asked if they liked or disliked the story and why. As each child came up to teacher's desk and whispered his preference, the teacher recorded the response for later comparison with pictures drawn of the same story by Classroom II. In making comparisons to check the likes and dislikes of these stories the following elements of interest were

considered:

1. Humor
2. Character
3. Plot
4. Ending
5. Personal Association

Three types of checks were used following the reading of the story by the teacher: individual oral response, picture response, comprehension response. The child was asked to respond immediately. In the individual oral response method each child came to the teacher's desk and answered these questions: Did you like the story or didn't you like the story? Why? Each child whispered so that the other children would not hear his answer. The teacher recorded the responses.

In the picture response method the children were instructed to draw something about the story. When drawing was completed, each child told what the picture represented. The teacher recorded the child's response on the back of each paper. These responses were compared with the oral responses of another classroom. The following table shows how the pictures were compared with the oral response.

TABLE II

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL RESPONSE AND PICTURE RESPONSE METHODS					
Name of Story					
Elements of Interest	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Pers. Assoc.
Oral Response					
Picture Response					

The child's oral response was the deciding factor for the classification of the pictures.

The pictures were further analyzed against the individual oral responses of the child as the writers were attempting to discover if the children drawing the pictures would draw the same items that the children who gave the oral responses had selected.

TABLE III

COMPARISON OF INDIVIDUAL ORAL RESPONSES WITH PICTURES		
Items	Oral Response	Picture

In the comparison method, after the story was read, questions were asked about the story to check for recall which is a factor in comprehension. It was important that the questions be objective. If the questions contained the following words, "Did you like the part where--" the child's response might have been influenced by this statement. Therefore, all the questions were of a factual nature. The following questions were used for checking the story, Pears for Pauline.

- 1. Did a big red truck come down the street? Yes
- 2. Was the red car Jack's truck? No
- 3. Did Jack want to work? Yes
- 4. Did a pear fall in the red wagon? Yes
- 5. Did the lady in the big white house buy pears? No
- 6. Did Jack want to play? No
- 7. Did Mr. Green want some pears? Yes
- 8. Was Pauline Mr. Green's daughter? No
- 9. Did Pauline like pears? Yes
- 10. Did Jack sell all his pears? Yes
- 11. Did Jack earn money? Yes
- 12. Did Jack's bank look like a big dog? No

The questions for each story may be found in the appendix. Yes and no questions were asked to facilitate the checking for the child. Each child was given a paper to check the answers to all questions. If the questions were answered correctly, it was assumed that the story was understood. If many failed on one question, it was assumed that the item was not understood, or the question poorly worded.

The presentation of each story together with the check took approximately fifteen minutes. Two stories were checked each day requiring different types of response.

POPULATION

Ninty children in three first grade classrooms in areas suburban to Metropolitan Boston were included in the study. Residential and industrial communities were represented. The children came from average socio-economic areas. Because of the limited number of cases sex differences were not considered.

The results of the analysis is presented in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER II

### ANALYSIS OF DATA

In analyzing the results of the study described in the previous chapter, consideration was given to a comparison of the individual oral response with the picture response. Interpretive data for each story was compiled:

- (1) to indicate children's likes and dislikes for stories
- (2) to compare the oral response and the picture method for elements of interest
- (3) to indicate whether the children drawing the pictures would draw the same items that the children who gave the oral response had selected
- (4) to determine the largest number of responses in oral and picture methods of checking to ascertain reason for preference

The analysis for each story follows. The comprehension check is presented first, then the comparison of the oral presentation and the picture presentation, and finally an analysis of the items presented by these two methods.

QUACK-QUACK THE FISHERMAN

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.83	.47

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	1	26		3	27	3	
Picture	2	23	2	14	36		1

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. It was funny	H	1	2
2. Won Blue Ribbon	P	8	4
3. Duck caught fish	P	17	7
4. Went to pet show	P	2	4
5. Duck Jerry's friend	C	1	1
6. Duck was fisherman	C	2	7
7. Duck catches fish	P		1
8. Duck swimming	P		4
9. Going for duck	P		1

The largest number of oral responses was the duck catching fish, which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE TOY MENDER

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
9	8.30	.97

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	2	8	4	1	25		1
Picture		17	1	13	31		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1.	Music box	P	8	9
2.	Toy shop	P	3	3
3.	Doll got fixed	E	3	6
4.	Toy Mender	C	3	4
5.	I would like to be a toy mender	P.A.	1	1
6.	Doll fell out of Alice's hand	P	2	
7.	Going home with music box	E	1	1
8.	Alice	C		6
9.	House Alice lives in			1

The largest number of oral responses was the music box, which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

PEARS FOR PAULINE

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
12	9.50	1.87

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	2	15	6	13	35		
Picture	4	18		2	24		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. Parrot sounded funny	H	2	2
2. Jerry pulled the red wagon	C	3	7
3. Jerry put pennies in the bank	E	6	6
4. Jerry selling pears	P	9	15
5. Parrot	C	5	5
6. Pear fell off tree	P	5	12
7. Earning money	P	2	2
8. Cross woman didn't want any	C	5	7

The largest number of oral responses was Jerry selling the pears which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE BIG RED TRUCK

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.83	.24

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		27		3	28	2	
Picture		19	15	2	26		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. Moving to farm	P	25	16
2. Dog ran in and out	P	1	2
3. Boy went far away	P	1	
4. He went back home	C	1	3
5. Little boy got up early in the morning	C	1	3
6. He went with Bill	C	1	1
7. When children didn't want Jack to move	P		2
8. Jack helping moving man	P		2
9. New house on the farm	E		7

The largest number of oral responses was moving to the farm which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE RIDE TO THE FARM

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
8	7.69	.57

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		22	1	2	24		1
Picture		20	1	9	30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Quack caught a fish	P	9	10
2. Quack received blue ribbon	PP	5	4
3. Jack wanted to catch fish	P	3	2
4. Pauline the parrot	C	1	1
5. Jack selling pears to old lady	P	1	
6. Toy Mender's shop	P	4	6
7. Jack wanted to be a moving man like Bill	E	1	1
8. I liked Jack	C	1	
9. The moving truck	P		8

The largest number of oral responses was Quack catching the fish which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE NEW HOME

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
6	5.23	.84

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	18	9	8	35	1	1	
Picture	18	3	4	25			

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Jumped out of truck and looked around	P	8	
2. Jack helped Bill	C	4	2
3. When Jack said good-bye to Bill	E	3	
4. Truck going away	E	6	3
5. When Jack moved into new house	P	6	13
6. Wants to be a moving man when he grows up	P.A.	1	
7. Jack leaving old house	C	4	2
8. Red truck coming to house	P	4	5

The largest number of oral responses was the truck going away which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.17	.75

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		24	1	4	25	5	1
Picture		26	5	5	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Billy and Bobby had a birthday party	P	20	8
2. Children ate all the ice cream	P	9	7
3. Children playing outside	E	1	5
4. Twins were 5 years old	C	3	
5. I like birthday parties	P.A.	1	
6. Had birthday cake	P	24	22
7. All children going home	E		3
8. Girls coming to party	C		5

The largest number of oral responses was twins had a birthday cake which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

SUMMER TIME

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
10	9.28	.84

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		13	10	1	24		
Picture		22	8		30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1.	Going on picnic	E	10	9
2.	Rode on ponies	P	2	
3.	Feeding the pigs	P	2	2
4.	Riding down the river	P	1	8
5.	Fishing	P	1	6
6.	When he didn't have a birthday party	C	1	
7.	At the farm	P		6
8.	Feeding the hens	P	4	5
9.	Eating breakfast	P	3	2

The largest number of oral responses was going on a picnic which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

AUTUMN TIME

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
6	4.63	.83

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	7	12	17		36		
Picture		11	13		24		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Jumping on leaves	H	5	9
2. Billy jumped on him	E	8	25
3. Billy looking for Bobby	P	5	13
4. When he wanted a birthday	P	5	12
5. Fall day	P		1

The largest number of oral responses was when Billy jumped on Bobby which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

WINTER TIME

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.71	.53

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		8	17	2	20	10	
Picture	1	10	23	3	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. Fell in the snow	E	7	
2. Went over a bump	E	10	23
3. Looked like a snowball	C	2	3
4. They were happy and went coasting	P	8	10
5. They were outside	P	2	
6. I didn't like it because of the bump	Dislike	10 <sup>s</sup>	

The largest number of oral responses was when the sled went over a bump which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

SPRING TIME

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
10	8.20	.53

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		5	18	1	24		
Picture		14	15	1	30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1.	Made a garden	P	2	12
2.	Birthday party	E	18	15
3.	They are six years old	C	1	
4.	Liked rabbits and duck, ice cream	P	2	1
5.	Where they said what they wanted for their birthday	P	1	
6.	Bobby calling mother to look at flowers	C	1	1

The largest number of oral responses was when they had the birthday party which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE OLD CAR

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
8	6.43	1.31

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers.	Assoc.
Oral	1	15	8	7	33	3		5
Picture		9	4	11	24			

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Grandmother put cake and apples in the basket	P	10	9
2. When Grandfather wanted Grandmother to take the train	E	6	
3. Grandmother was thinking of Bobby and Billy	C	4	
4. Grandmother was going to bring the boys back with her	P	4	
5. Grandmother went in the old car	P	3	
6. Grandfather checked the car	E	2	4
7. I liked the Grandmother	P.A.	2	
8. When Grandmother said good-by to Grandfather	C	1	
9. It was funny	H	1	
10. Grandmother looking out at her garden	C		6
11. I didn't like it			3

The largest number of oral responses was when Grandmother put the cake and apples in her basket; which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE RIDE TO THE CITY

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.30	1.11

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		24	5	1	23	7	
Picture		23	8	5	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1.	Grandmother visited Bobby and Billy	E	5	8
2.	Man helped her	P	5	2
3.	Car was broken	P	10	13
4.	No gas in the car	P	5	13
5.	Going up the hill	P	1	4
6.	Grandmother eating an apple	C	1	4
7.	Grandmother went over a bump	P	5	
8.	Grandmother could not start the car	P	2	3

The largest number of oral responses was when the car was broken which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

BLUE BARN

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
13	8.87	2.32

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	2	20	6	6	32	4	2
Picture		19	1	3	24		2

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Martha got fat	C	3	2
2. Martha came out one day	P	11	8
3. I like ducks	C	3	
4. Ducks flew away from Andrew	P	5	6
5. Andrew sleeping in dog house all winter	P	4	2
6. Andrew was happy	E	3	
7. When Andrew started to cry it was funny	H	2	
8. They followed the farmer's wife	E	3	2
9. I like the name Andrew	P.A.	2	2
10. Man gave ducks to farmer	P		2
11. Hen looking for the animals	C		1
12. Turkey	C		1

The largest number of Oral Responses was when Martha came out one day which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

AT BOBBY'S AND BILLY'S HOUSE

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
10	9.44	.80

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		12	12		24		
Picture		22	4	6	32		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Going on the train	E	12	4
2. Eating the white cake	P	3	1
3. Grandmother at breakfast	P	9	13
4. Grandmother's car	C		1
5. Twins meeting Grandmother	P		1
6. Grandmother walking towards house	P		6
7. Bobby and Billy's house	C		4
8. Grandmother's house	C		1
9. Boy milked the cow	C		4

The largest number of oral responses was going on the train; while the largest number pictured was Grandmother at the breakfast table. The analysis indicated that the largest number of oral responses was not the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE BLUE POOL

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5.	4.38	.22

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	7	17		6	26	4	
Picture	17	11		6	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. Frog did not know what winter was	P	14	7
2. Little Frog laughed	H	4	2
3. The Frog was little	C	1	
4. Winter came	P	1	4
5. The wise bull frog	C	1	
6. Frog went under water to spend winter	C	2	1
7. Mr. Turtle laughed at Little Frog	H	2	15
8. Little Frog	C	2	5
9. Spring came	P	1	
10. He missed winter	P	1	
11. Turtle and Frog going to sleep	P		2
12. Bird saying good-bye to Frog	P		1

The largest number of oral responses was Little Frog didn't know what winter was; while the largest number pictured was Mr. Turtle laughed at Little Frog. The analysis indicated that the largest number of oral responses was not the same item as the largest number pictured.

LITTLE DEER'S SPOTS

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
10	9.27	1.22

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		13	12		25		
Picture		19	10	2	30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Mother said, "Little Duck is lovely."	P	1	
2. When Little Deer kept looking at his spots	P	3	3
3. Little Deer sleeping in leaves	P	2	6
4. Duck was taking care of Little Deer	P	1	5
5. Mother said, "Little Deer, go to sleep."	P	2	
6. Duck said he would loose his spots	E	12	10
7. Mother Deer left Little Deer	P	4	5
8. Mother Deer	C		1
9. Baby Deer	C		1

The largest number of oral responses was the Duck said he would loose his spots which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

THE BIG NEW WORLD

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
9	7.33	1.54

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	3	12	16	2	36		3
Picture		7	12	5	24		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Baby Deer lost his spots	E	16	12
2. Little Deer went out to see the world	P	10	7
3. Baby Deer and his Mother	C	2	5
4. When they went to see the farm	P	2	
5. I liked Little Deer	P.A.	3	
6. Andrew hissed at Little Deer	H	3	

The largest number of oral responses was Baby Deer lost his spots, which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

LITTLE DEER'S ANTLERS

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.33	.75

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		4	24		30		
Picture		11	15	10	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Little Deer got his antlers	E	24	14
2. Because he is a father	C	1	1
3. Father deer had a tree on his head	C	1	9
4. Little deer asked the animals	P	4	5
5. Mother Deer said his antlers would grow beautiful	C	1	
6. Little Deer and ducks going to pool	P		6

The largest number of oral responses was Little Deer got his antlers which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

PADDY'S PETS

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
10	9.73	.57

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	3	19	2		24		
Picture		23		7	30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. When pets peeked out of father's pocket in church	P	13	9
2. Father walking out of church pets in his pocket	E	2	
3. Father laid coat over pew	P	4	
4. When Paddy received puppy from father	P	1	1
5. When everyone smiled but father	H	1	
6. It was funny	H	2	
7. Father and Paddy going to church	P		7
8. Paddy put puppies in overcoat	P	1	1
9. Paddy playing in the yard	P		5
10. Paddy's house	C		5
11. Church	C		2

The largest number of oral responses was when the pets peeked out of father's pocket which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

GOOD COASTING TODAY

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
11	8.80	1.42

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers.	Assoc.
Oral	4	30			34		2	
Picture		24		1	25			

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. When sled turned over	P	9	13
2. Playing in the snow	P	7	5
3. Father and Alice leaving house	P		1
4. Jerry riding down the hill	P	1	1
5. Alice coasting	P	1	1
6. Family going coasting	P	8	1
7. Mr. Carl's train	C		1
8. Father and Mother went this way and that way	P	4	
9. It was funny	H	4	
10. I like stories about Winter	P.A.	2	

The largest number of oral responses was when sled turned over which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

TING-A-LING

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
5	4.66	.62

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		23		7	26	4	
Picture		23		13	36		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Response	Type	O	P
1. Mr. Carl went for the bird	P	19	19
2. Mr. Carl had good news	P	4	4
3. Mr. Carl didn't go coasting	C	2	
4. The bird could sing	C	1	
5. When he got on the train	C	1	4
6. Mr. Carl had so many birds in his house	C	1	1
7. When the children wanted Mr. Carl to go coasting	P	2	12

The largest number of oral responses was Mr. Carl went for the bird which was the same item as the largest number pictured.

IN THE CITY

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
11	9.83	1.17

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral	8	14	3		25		
Picture	6	19	5		30		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. When Mr. Carl said he couldn't stop and he did	H	6	6
2. Buying the toys	P	5	12
3. It was funny	H	2	
4. Mr. Carl didn't have enough pennies to buy the bird	P	9	7
5. Going on the train	E	3	5

The largest number of oral responses was Mr. Carl didn't have enough pennies to buy the bird; while the largest number pictured was buying the toys.

TING-A-LING AGAIN

Possible Score	M.	S.D.
9	7.73	1.15

DISTRIBUTION OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

	Humor	Plot	Ending	Character	Like	Dislike	Pers. Assoc.
Oral		20	5		35		10
Picture		17	7		24		

COMPARISON OF ORAL AND PICTURE RESPONSES

Individual Oral Responses	Type	O	P
1. Church bells ringing	E	5	7
2. Mr. Carl's house	P		2
3. Children ring bell	P	8	5
4. Person going to Sunday School	P		1
5. Mr. Carl asleep in bed	P		3
6. Mr. Carl hears bell ring	P	1	1
7. Children playing with boat	P	6	2
8. Inside the church	P		1
9. Alice and Jerry talking to Mr. Carl	P	5	2
10. Mr. Carl was so nice to the children	P.A.	8	
11. Liked it because there were boys and girls in it	P.A.	1	
12. I like short stories	P.A.	1	

The largest number of oral responses was children ring bell and Mr. Carl was so nice to children. The Largest number pictured was the churchbells ringing.

## CHAPTER III

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to investigate the likes and dislikes of first grade children for stories included in the basal reader, Round About, and the reasons for these preferences. As a result of the investigation, it was hoped to discover, if possible

- (1) why children like or dislike stories
- (2) reasons for their preferences
- (3) elements of the story most interesting to them

To accomplish this twenty-four stories were read in three first grade classrooms and each one was checked in three different ways.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- (1) The geographical distribution of participants was narrow.
- (2) The number of participants was restricted.

CONCLUSIONS

From this investigation made in three first grade classrooms from three varied communities in areas suburban to Metropolitan Boston the following conclusions were drawn:

- (1) Most of the children liked the stories.
- (2) The children liked the stories because of the elements of
  - plot
  - humor
  - character
  - personal association

- (3) Plot was the element of greatest interest.

- (4) Character was the element of second choice.
- (5) Humor and Personal Association were least important.
- (6) Some stories were disliked because of unpleasant personal experiences. The following are examples which were given by children:

They fell in the snow.  
No gas in the car.  
The bell kept ringing.  
Grandma didn't go by train.  
Mr. Carl couldn't go coasting.  
The little boy moved.  
The boy got up early in the morning.

- (7) It was evident that they comprehended the stories due to correctness in comprehension check.

#### Suggestions for Further Research

- (1) To conduct a further analysis of the pictures produced in this study.
- (2) To conduct a similar study with a larger group of children.
- (3) To conduct a similar study using a wider geographical area.

APPENDIX

The questions for the stories in the respective groups follow:

GROUP A

I The Toy Mender

1. Was the store in this story very old?
2. Was the man called the Toy Seller?
3. When Mother called was Alice playing with a train?
4. Did Alice see a pretty box?
5. Did the Toy Mender fix Betsy Lee as good as new?
6. Did the box belong to Jerry?
7. Did the box play a gay little tune?
8. Did the Toy Mender give the box to Alice?
9. Was it a horse that stepped on Betsy Lee and broke her?

II The Ride to the Farm

1. Did Jack drive the truck?
2. Did Jack talk and talk as they went?
3. Did he tell Bill about Pauline?
4. Did Jack Spend all his money?
5. Did Jack say he was going to be a policeman?
6. Did they go by a river?
7. Is Jack going to catch fish if there is a river near his new home?
8. Can Bill catch fish?

III Summer Time

1. Is this story about the winter?
2. Did Billy wish he were ten years old?
3. Are Bobby and Billy going to see Grandmother?
4. Did they sleep late?
5. Did they see the men milk the cows?
6. Did they feed all the animals in the barnyard?
7. Did they make a snowman?
8. Did they have a ride on a pony?
9. Did they have a terrible time?
10. Did they sit at the table for the picnic?

IV Spring Time

1. Did the birds sing in the trees?
2. Will Billy and Bobby be five years old?
3. Is it summer time?
4. Are they going to make a garden?
5. Did they make a vegetable garden?

IV Spring Time (cont'd.)

6. Did they want a pony for their birthday?
7. Is Bobby the same age as Billy?
8. Did they have ice cream rabbits and ice cream ducks?
9. Was the party the same as the other?
10. Did they think a party is the best fun in all the world?

V At Bobby and Billy's House

1. Was Grandfather at the table the next morning?
2. Did they give Grandmother a big hug?
3. Is Grandmother going to stay a long time?
4. Did they take the cake out of the basket?
5. Are Billy and Bobby going to visit Grandmother?
6. Did Father come home from school?
7. Did they have ice cream rabbits and ice cream ducks?
8. Did they go to Grandmother's in the car?
9. Did the boys go to the country with Grandmother?
10. Are they going to have fun?

VI Little Deer's Spots

1. Did Mother and Baby Deer live near the Blue Pool?
2. Did Mother Deer have three babies?
3. Did Mother Deer have a bed for her Baby?
4. Did Baby Deer have funny black spots?
5. Did Baby Deer always go with Mother Deer to see the world?
6. Did Baby Deer want to see the world?
7. Did Baby Deer like his spots?
8. Did Mother Pig take care of Little Deer?
9. Did Mother Wild Duck say, "If no one can see you no one will harm you."?
10. Will Little Deer have spots when he is big?

VII Paddy's Pets

1. Did Paddy give Father a big, big hug?
2. Was the kitten in Father's pocket?
3. Did Paddy skip to Father?
4. Did Father give Paddy a rabbit?
5. Did the church bell say, "Come to church."?
6. Did Paddy put the pets in the cellar?
7. Did Father keep his coat on?
8. Did Father know the pets were in church?
9. Did the pets get a bump?
10. Do you think Father liked the pets to be in church?

VIII In the City

1. Did Mr. Carl often go to the city?
2. Did he go to the city to buy toys?
3. Did he like to look in the windows?
4. Did Mr. Carl buy a dress for Alice?
5. Was Mr. Carl happy?
6. Did he get something for Jerry and Paddy?
7. When he got to 24 Spring Street did he have enough money to get the bird?
8. Did Mr. Carl buy the brown bird?
9. Will the birds be happy to see Mr. Carl?
10. Was Mr. Carl cross?
11. Did he sit in the sun?

GROUP BI Pears for Pauline

1. Did a big red truck come down the street?
2. Was the red car Jack's truck?
3. Did Jack want to work?
4. Did a pear fall in the red wagon?
5. Did the lady in the big white house buy pears?
6. Did Jack want to play?
7. Did Mr. Green want some pears?
8. Was Pauline Mr. Green's daughter?
9. Did Pauline like the pears?
10. Did Jack sell all his pears?
11. Did Jack earn money?
12. Did Jack's bank look like a big dog?

II The New House

1. Did Jack and Bill ride in the moving truck?
2. Did Jack like his new home?
3. Was Jack's new home in the city?
4. Did Jack have a good time on moving day?
5. Did Bill stay at Jack's new home?
6. Did the moving truck stay at Jack's house?

III Autumn Time

1. Were Bobby and Billy six years old?
2. Was it summer?
3. Did Bobby and Billy have a party?
4. Did Bobby and Billy play in the leaves?
5. Did Bobby hide in the house?
6. Did Billy find Bobby?

#### IV The Old Car

1. Were Bobby and Billy with Grandmother?
2. Did Grandfather want Grandmother to drive to the city?
3. Were Bobby and Billy six years old?
4. Did Grandmother want to take the train?
5. Did Grandmother make ice cream?
6. Did Grandmother drive to Bobby and Billy's home?
7. Was the car pretty old?
8. Did Grandfather go to get Bobby and Billy?

#### V Blue Barns

1. Were all the barns painted blue?
2. Were there geese on the farm?
3. Did Andrew eat too much?
4. Did Andrew walk all over the farm?
5. Did a man give six puppies to the farmer?
6. Did Martha get too fat to walk?
7. Was Andrew happy when he saw the ducks?
8. Was the turkey happy?
9. Did Andrew stay in the barn all winter?
10. Did the ducks fly away with the wild ducks?
11. Did Andrew like the snow?
12. Was Andrew happy when he saw Martha was not very fat now?
13. Did Martha fly away with the ducks?

#### VI The Big New World

1. Did Little Deer want to see the world?
2. Did Mother Deer tell Little Deer to go out alone?
3. Was Little Deer happy to see the world?
4. Did Mother Deer take Little Deer to the farm?
5. Was Little Deer afraid of Andrew?
6. Did Little Deer go again with Mother Deer?
7. Did Little Deer keep looking at his spots?
8. Did Little Deer's new coat have spots?
9. Did Little Deer go out alone to see the world?

#### VII Good Coasting Today

1. Was it a good day for coasting?
2. Did Alice and Jerry like the snow?
3. Did Alice and Jerry eat their dinner before they went coasting?
4. Was Father a big red bundle?
5. Did Jerry make a big snowball?
6. Were the sleds in the house?
7. Did Mother and Father go coasting with Alice and Jerry?
8. Was it a long climb to the top of the hill?
9. Did Father and Alice tip over?

VII Good Coasting Today (cont'd.)

10. Did Alice and Jerry coast down the street?
11. Did Mother think coasting was fun?

VIII Ting-a-ling Again

1. Did Mr. Carl go coasting?
2. Was Mr. Carl in bed when the bell rang?
3. Did Mr. Carl lean out of the window to see who it was?
4. Did Mr. Carl tell Alice, Jerry, and Paddy not to come back.
5. Did Mr. Carl think coasting was safe for an old man?
6. Did Alice, Jerry, and Paddy have fun at Mr. Carl's?
7. Did Mr. Carl have toys for them to play with?
8. Did Mr. Carl hear the church bell?
9. Did the children forget about coasting?

GROUP C

I Quack-Quack the Fisherman

1. Did Jerry like the hens on the farm best of all?
2. Did Alice like Quack-Quack?
3. Did Quack-Quack catch a fish at the river?
4. Did the monkey get the blue ribbon?
5. Were Jerry and Alice happy after the pet show?

II The Big Red Truck

1. Did Jerry eat all of his breakfast on moving day?
2. Did the moving men break one of Jack's pictures?
3. Did Jack help the moving men?
4. Were Jerry and Alice glad to see Jack go?
5. Did Jack ride with Bill to the farm?

III The Birthday Party

1. Were Bobby and Billy brothers?
2. Were there fifteen candles on the birthday cake?
3. Were there only boys at the party?
4. Did the twins have fun at their party?
5. Did the cake have yellow candles on it?

IV Winter Time

1. Was it raining in our story?
2. Were the twins six years old now?
3. Did Bobby and Billy fall off their sleds?
4. Did they have new sleds to coast on?
5. Were their sleds blue?

V The Ride to the City

1. When Grandmother started on her trip was she happy?
2. Did she have a new car?
3. Did the car get to the top of the hill?
4. Did Grandmother have anything to eat?
5. Did Grandfather get gas for the car?

VI The Blue Pool

1. Did Mr. Turtle know what winter was?
2. Did the birds sleep during the winter?
3. Did Mr. Bullfrog sleep during the winter?
4. Did the birds know what winter was?
5. Did the Little Frog find out what winter was?

VII Little Deer's Antlers

1. Was Little Deer happy at the beginning of the story?
2. Did Little Deer know what antlers were?
3. Did the birds tell Little Deer that antlers grew on trees.
4. Did Little Deer find his antlers in the tree?
5. Was Little Deer happy when he looked in the blue pool?

VIII Ting-a-ling

1. Was the bird a brown one?
2. Did the letter ask about a nightingale for sale?
3. Did Mr. Carl have a ride on Jerry's sled?
4. Was Mr. Carl's train on time?
5. Did Mr. Carl go to the city for the nightingale?

COMPREHENSION CHECK  
LIST

Joyce<sup>10</sup>

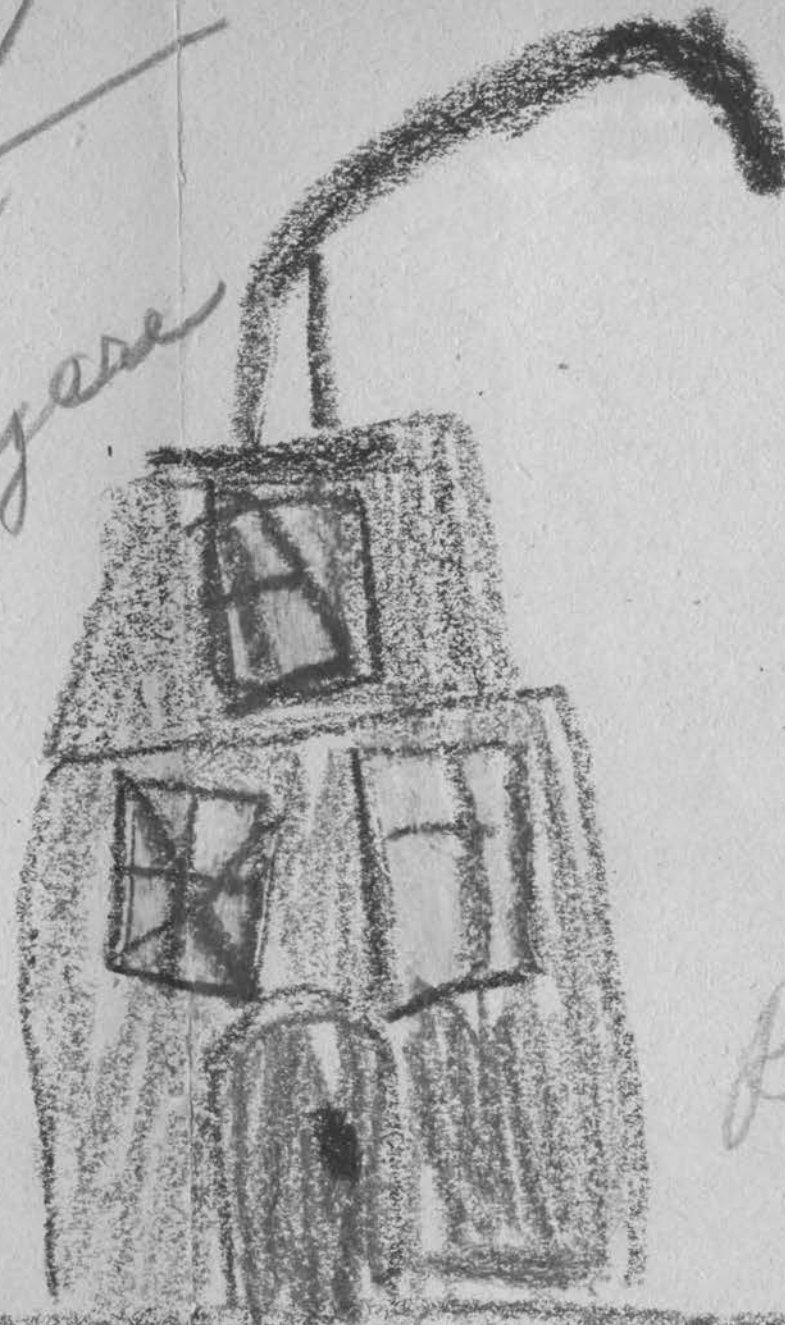
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Joyce Ho

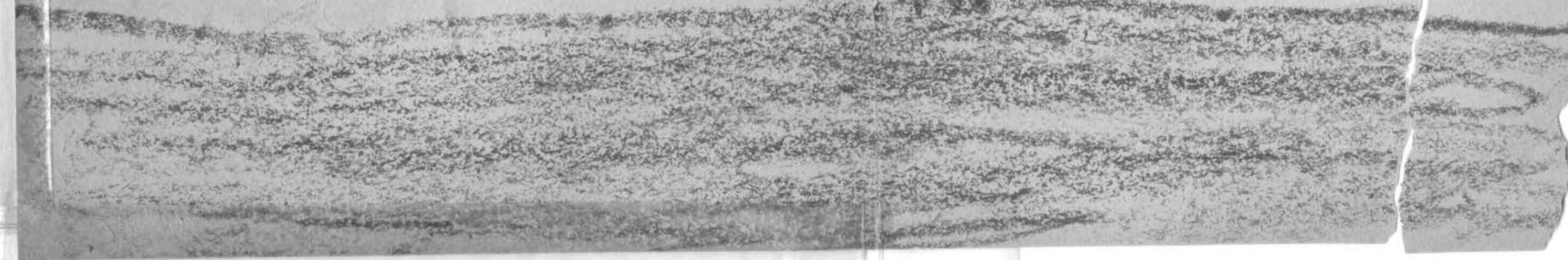


*Jack at the  
farm  
where  
they are*

*morning  
to*



*Rosemary  
✓*



Picture drawn from the story  
The Ride to the Farm p.p. 49

R Semdravehuti



taking care  
of

Duck

Baby Deer

Plot D

Picture drawn for the Story

Little Deer's Spots pp 136