

OPEN COURT READING PROGRAM - Testimonial

From: Stephen Adamson

Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 1:45 PM

Subject: Open Court Reading

Mr. Wigowsky,

Thank you for posting so much information about the Open Court Foundation program. As a child in elementary school, I attended a Christian school that used the Open Court program. Many of my fondest memories of first grade revolve around learning to read and write with Open Court. The many activities, including wondering each day what letters would be turned around on the wall, are vivid in my memory. We used the edition of the program that was available before "Headway" was published.

In addition to my teacher that year, I credit Open Court with my desire to become a teacher. Although I'm not teaching any longer, I tried implementing Open Court techniques into my French classes. It is amazing that those same techniques were beneficial across content areas.

Over the years I have been able to piece together parts of the Open Court program to add to my personal collection. The component that seems to elude me is the Teacher's Guide to the Foundation program. Admittedly, I was excited when I stumbled upon your site and you had made the PDF available of the same edition of the program that I had used as a student.

Since you were a teacher using the program, I do have one question. Although *Reading is Fun* is listed as the reader for the second semester of first grade, my school chose to use that reader for the first semester of 2nd grade, pushing each of the subsequent readers back one semester. For example, in fourth grade, we used the 3:2 reader *A Trip Around the World* for the first semester. But for the second semester they chose to use *Ventures*, a fourth grade reader from the old Scott, Foresman program. The school picked up once again with Open Court in fifth grade, using the fourth grade reader. Was this a common practice of users of Open Court?

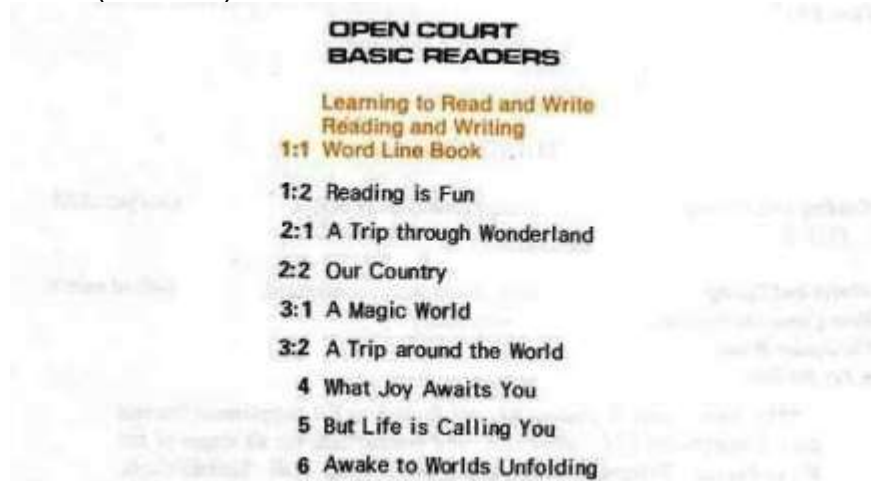
Thank you again for making Open Court available once again. It was a great stroll down memory lane that I'm sure many users of Open Court will enjoy.

Sincerely,
Stephen Adamson, Ph.D.

Hi Stephen,

I'm glad to hear the positive feedback you gave about the OC program that I replicated online for educational purposes.

As a teacher in the Open Court program (grades 1-3), I used the textbooks that are listed below (1:1 - 3:2).



We used 1:2 Reading is Fun mostly as a second grade reader (although some advanced students in 1st grade used it minimally).

When I taught 2nd grade, we went through the 2:2 reader (Our Country).

In 3rd grade, we went through 3:2 (A Trip Around the World).

After 3rd grade, the other grades decided to use other textbooks/readers. Open Court was not used in grades 4-6.

When our school went through a chaotic "reform" in 1991 -- new superintendent, new elementary teachers -- there was a pendulum swing from phonics to whole language. The new administration and new teachers convinced the community (of parents) that it was time for a change. Old textbooks were discarded. I luckily saved the first grade curriculum, which I decided to reproduce online after I retired from teaching in 2003.

Sadly, there were no teacher's guides preserved from grade 2 and 3.

I do have the grade 2-3 readers, but I feel that I probably shouldn't put them online since some of the present OC material includes stories from those editions.

Thanks for showing interest in "the Best PHONICS program" I ever encountered. It's a TREASURE worth preserving for future generations.

I'm presently using the program to teach my grandkids.

Paul

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Hi Stephen,

I would like to post your Open Court testimonial on the OC web page -- for educators, parents, etc.

Please let me know if I have your permission to post the following (with my response):

Paul

P.S. I will not include email addresses.

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Hi Paul,

Yes, please feel free to post my Open Court testimonial on the OC page! I do hope more students and teachers get to experience the same excitement and level of learning that I experienced with Open Court.

Thanks again,

Stephen