

PREPARING ADULT LEARNERS TO STUDY FOR THE GED

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HSED AND GED TESTS

- HSED stands for High School Equivalency plus other course work. It is more extensive than the GED
- HSED was created for migrants and farm workers
- GED stands for General Educational Development and means that the student has simply passed the high school equivalency test
- Both tests cover material in math, science, language arts, and social studies

“What Did I Just Read?”

Questions about HSE Level Texts

- What are the most common student concerns/complaints about reading, specifically for HSE exams?
- What are your concerns about teaching reading comprehension skills for HSE exams?

Agenda

- Acknowledge the Disconnect
- Reconnect to Reading
- Apply skills to the HSE Tests

Acknowledge the Disconnect

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half-concealing. Her husband's friend Richard was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Bentley Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which someone was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering the eaves.

There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.

She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name, But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air.

Make Reading Relevant and Accessible

- * Read Outside of the Classroom (Newspapers)
- * Read With Intention (Short Stories, Poetry)
- * Read With Discussion (Book Clubs)

Set the Foundation

- Introduce reading as an ACTIVE activity
- Model how to ENGAGE and INTERACT with text
- Improve FLUENCY and VOCABULARY
- Explain difference between MEMORY and COMPREHENSION
- Stress the importance of Comprehension for every day life

READING COMPREHENSION

- COMPREHENSION is a deep or full understanding of something
- Comprehension can start by asking a few questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why (Most important)
- Active Reading Strategies: Visualize, Clarify, Question, Predict, Connect, Evaluate

Transition to Reading Academic Texts

- Gradate the texts
- Explain the context
- Assist with antiquated or subject-specific vocabulary
- Remind students they already have been reading with “academic eyes”

GED Reading Passages

The reading comprehension component of the GED or RLA test measures two overarching reading standards that reflect current research about career-and-college-readiness skills:

- Determine the details of what is explicitly stated and make logical inferences or valid claims based on textual evidence
- Read and respond to questions from a range of texts that are from the upper levels of complexity, including texts at the career-and college-ready level

Practice, Practice, (Timed) Practice

- Get students comfortable with timed readings
 - Help students decide whether or not to read the questions first
 - Ask students to make inferences (beyond the questions)
 - Let students test out different strategies (in a testing environment)
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- What additional test-taking strategies would you recommend?

Introduce Humor

- Play act a short story
- Use Poetry
- Talk about the physical ways of laughing, crying, excitement
- Play word games
- Breathe