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*In the Name of God,
the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

Joy Reading Set Off

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«حق چاپ برای مؤلف محفوظ است»

Preface

The ability to read in English is an essential skill which English as a foreign or second language (EFL/ESL) learners attempt to master as they improve their command of the language. Through a broad categorization, English language teaching (ELT) professionals classify reading activities into two groups: the first group comprises activities which help enhance the very skill of reading; the second group, in turn, features activities which, either implicitly or explicitly, employ the skill of reading to develop other language skills or components. Whereas the latter group of activities are widely known as *reinforcement reading*, the former group is referred to as *reading for reading*.

Examples of reinforcement reading activities include grammar-oriented consciousness-raising tasks, vocabulary-focused comprehension exercises, reading-mediated pronunciation or spelling enhancement exercises, speaking- or listening-related tasks, and writing-oriented consciousness-raising tasks. On the other hand, activities constituting reading for reading, as the title suggests, encompass those exercises or tasks which aim at developing fluency and accuracy in reading, as well as those which better the ability to read for gist; the ability to read for specific information; the ability to locate details in a passage;

and the ability to make inferences relying on the information given in a written text.

The majority of reading books available on the market incorporate inauthentic passages, that is, texts written for pedagogic purposes, and as such they do not exploit the great potential of literary texts for language learning purposes. Moreover, the majority of these books do not expose language learners to what they may encounter in real-life situations. Further, of the reading books authored to date, only a marginal minority pay equal attention to enhancing both reading subskills and language components. *Joy Reading: Set Off* is, unlike most other books of its kind, a reader of exciting stories accompanied by follow-up exercises of various types.

Joy Reading: Set Off is a collection of ten short stories. Preceded by two warm-up activities, each story is an engaging narrative that is specifically appropriate for EFL/ESL learners studying English at the elementary level of language proficiency. To guarantee full understanding of the narratives, learners can do the exercises which follow the stories. These exercises primarily focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary development. They also give language learners the opportunity to discuss a number of questions directly related to the theme of the narrative they have read. Additionally, learners get a chance of reflecting on the areas in which they have improved their language-related knowledge and ability. Given its rich content, this book is suitable for use in all ELT classrooms. However, as

the book adopts a flexible approach to reading, it also serves the language learning purposes of those learners who wish to enhance their command of English through self-study.

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