

The Blumenfeld Education Letter

"My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge" HOSEA 4:6

Vol. V, No. 3 (Letter # 43)

EDITOR: Samuel L. Blumenfeld

March 1990

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide knowledge for parents and educators who want to save the children of America from the destructive forces that endanger them. Our children in the public schools are at grave risk in 4 ways: academically, spiritually, morally, and physically — and only a well-informed public will be able to reduce those risks.

"Without vision, the people perish."

Why Ivan Can Read But Johnny Can't

Back in 1962, Arthur Trace wrote a book entitled What Ivan Knows That Johnny Doesn't. In that book Trace informed us that Ivan was being taught to read by phonics, and that was why Ivan was able to learn so much better than Johnny. In fact, throughout the communist world, children were taught to read by phonics, mainly so that they could read Marx and Lenin and become the engineers and scientists the state needed to be able to create its socialist utopia and great military power.

What the communist leaders did not foresee is that the high literacy of their slaves would not lead them to Marx and Lenin, but to Jefferson, Lincoln and other dissident writers. Of course, the communist masters hoped that they could prevent this by a regime of strict censorship. But in an age of computers, radios, video and audio cassettes as well as books, the flow of information, news, and ideas could not be stopped.

Today's liberated people in the East can now read anything they want, provided the books are available, and their high literacy will enable them to make up for lost time.

In the United States, on the other hand, millions of Americans have been turned into functional illiterates by their schools, and thus are effectively prevented from rising out of the underclass to which their inferior educations have condemned them. The American public education system is now the world's most effective censor because it denies millions of citizens the skills needed to become proficient readers. These functional illiterates and semi-literates are effectively cut off from mankind's greatest source of knowledge and wisdom: books. And all of this is due to the educators' insistence that American children be taught to read by the discredited look-say, whole-word, or sight method of instruction, presently being peddled as "whole language."

It Was Tried in Russia

Oddly enough, the Russians used the whole-word method back in the early days of the communist regime, but replaced it with phonics in the 1930s when it became obvious that look-say didn't work. The Great Soviet Encyclopedia (Vol. 4, p. 423) describes what

The Blumenfeld Education Letter is published monthly. Sources of products and services described are not necessarily endorsed by this publication. They are intended to provide our readers with information on a rapidly expanding field of educational activity. Permission to quote is granted provided proper credit is given. Original material is copyrighted by Hosea Communications, Incorporated. Rate: 1 year \$36.00. Subscription Address: Post Office Box 45161, Boise, Idaho 83711, Phone (208) 322-4440.