IRAS-R

INTERACTIVE READING ASSESSMENT SYSTEM - REVISED

STIMULUS (STUDENT) MATERIALS
It is Jim's birthday. Jim wants to have a cake. He asks Mom to make him one. Mom says she cannot do it now; she has to go to work.

Jim is mad. He asks Mom, "Can I make a cake if Dad helps me?"

"Yes," says Mom. "You can ask him to help you."

So Jim goes out to look for Dad.
It is a sunny day. Ann is on her bike.

Tom wants to play ball. He asks Ann to play with him. She will not play ball now, she wants to ride.

Tom is sad. He asks Ann, “Can we take a ride and then play ball?”

“Yes,” says Ann. “That will be fun.”

So Tom gets his bike and they play.
Jill has a tree house. She wants to paint it green. She asks Sam to help.

Sam cannot help. He is going out with Pat.

Jill is sad. She asks Dad, "Can you come out and help me?"

“Yes,” says Dad. “I will help you tree house.”

So Jill goes to get the green paint.
Pam lived in a house by a hill.

One morning she took her brown ball to the top of the hill. The grass was wet and Pam fell. The ball rolled down the hill.

Pam began to cry. She ran after it, but she could not stop it. She saw it fall into a pond.

Then a boy walked by the pond. He saw something in the water.

Pam said, "Try to get my ball."

The boy jumped into the cold water. He got Pam's ball.

Pam thanked him and then walked up the hill and played.
You should see Ann’s dog. His name is Ed. He is bigger than Ann. She thinks he is getting bigger and bigger all the time.

His coat is red, but the hair on his head is dark brown. He has long thin legs and big fat feet. He has a big nose, too.

Ann thinks he is funny. He can run like a rabbit, but he eats like a pig.
Ed works at the zoo in town. One night he took some food to the baby fox. He went to its cage, but the fox was not there.

Ed was surprised. He looked around, but he did not see it. The fox hid in the dark.

Then a man walked by. He had a light. Ed said, "Shine the light on the cage." The man made the light shine.

Right away Ed saw the baby fox on top of its cage. So he put it back in the cage and gave it some food.
Bill was dressed for winter. He had on a round, fur hat. It was pulled down over his ears. His long coat was buttoned up to his chin. The buttons were big and red. They made him look like a clown.

Yes, Bill was dressed for the cold. He had on his fur hat and his long coat. I laughed when he hopped up and down to keep his feet warm.
Once there was an old man who lived by a river. It was winter and the river was covered with ice. One day he looked out his window and saw a boy by the river. The boy started to walk across the river on the ice.

The old man was afraid that the ice would break. He opened the window and called out to the boy. But the boy didn't hear him, and he just kept on going. When he got to the middle, the ice broke, and the boy fell into the water.

The old man got a long ladder and ran down to the river. He slid the ladder across the ice. The boy grabbed the ladder and the man pulled him out.

The next day the boy visited the old man and thanked him for saving his life.
It is easy to make butter. First you need a jar and some heavy cream. Fill the jar part way with cream. Then shake it for about 20 minutes. Soon the cream will start to get lumpy. Stop when most of the cream turns into lumps. You will find that the lumps are butter.

Take the lumps out of the jar and wash them with cold water. Mix a little salt with the lumps and pat them together. Leave the butter in a cool place over night. In the morning the butter will be hard and ready to eat.
Once there was a little girl who had a kitten. The kitten liked to play in the yard by a tall tree.

Early one morning a dog was walking in front of the house. It was windy and the gate blew open. The dog ran into the yard. The kitten was scared and ran up the tree.

The girl tried to reach it, but she had no luck. The kitten climbed to the highest branch. The girl's sister saw the kitten from her window. She opened the window and leaned out. She could reach the branch. "Come inside," she said softly. She reached out when the kitten came closer. Then she pulled it into the house.

That night the little girl told everyone what had happened. She was glad that her sister had saved the kitten.
One way to make money in the summer is to sell lemonade. It is easy to make. You need lemons, water, sugar, and ice.

Put the juice from ten lemons into ten cups of water. Add two cups of sugar and lots of ice. Then stir it.

When you have the lemonade, get some paper cups and enough money to make change. Also get a small table to put things on. Then find a spot to set up. The corner of a street is good.

When it gets hot, people will stop to buy a drink.
Joe and his daughter Sue were fishing at the lake. They were there for an hour and had not caught any fish. Joe wanted to find a better spot so he started to walk around the lake. He passed a few fishermen near the dock. They told him that they were catching lots of fish. Joe was excited to hear the news, and he started back to get his daughter. Meanwhile, Sue was fishing by herself. She got tired and fell asleep with the pole in her hand. She slept until she felt a strong tug on her line. She was startled to find that the fishing rod was being pulled into the water. Sue rushed into the lake just as her father returned. Then she grabbed the fishing pole and pulled it out of the water. Both Joe and Sue were amazed to discover an enormous fish hooked on the line.
There is a big, old tree in the yard outside my window. It is straight and tall and looks like a cone. The branches at the bottom are wide and full. The tree goes way above the roof of my house. At the top it is narrow and comes to a point. The green leaves that cover its branches are not really leaves at all. They are sharp and pointed and make me think of needles. The tree in my yard is always green. In winter the other trees lose their leaves. But even when snow falls and it is cold I can look at my tree and think of spring.
Kate and her cousin, Jeff, went to the circus. They arrived a half-hour before the afternoon show. Kate wanted to find good seats. She walked inside and saw two empty seats in the first row, but a lady told her that the seats were taken. Kate was unhappy because the front rows were already filled. She walked to the back to find two seats. Meanwhile, Jeff was waiting in line at the candy stand. He wanted to get some popcorn before the show began. Suddenly he heard the band begin to play. He was afraid that he would miss the first act. As soon as he bought the popcorn, he hurried to find Kate. On the way to his seat, he tripped and spilled the popcorn. Finally, he found his cousin in the back row and they began to watch the show. They didn't have good seats and they didn't have any popcorn, but they enjoyed the circus anyway.
Not far from where I live there is an old castle. It is not very big. It is made of gray stones and has a tower on one side of the main building. The tower is round and about 30 feet tall. There is a long narrow window near the top. The glass in the window has been broken for many years.

There is a cellar hole on the other side of the castle. It is filled with rocks and weeds. Some wood also remains from the barn that used to be there.

It is easy to tell that no one has lived there for a long time. Even the road is grown over with grass.
The moon had just risen as Jan looked toward the old deserted house. She was waiting for her friend, Ellen. Together they planned to find out if the house was haunted. When Ellen arrived the two friends began to walk nervously up the path. A strange shadow seemed to fall across the window next to the porch. Both girls were scared, but they pretended not to notice. Then as Ellen held the flashlight, Jan anxiously pushed open the door.

Once inside the house they were startled to hear a peculiar scratching sound. Ellen flashed her light all around, but she could not find where the sound was coming from. But it seemed to be coming toward them. Suddenly Jan felt something rub against her leg. She tried to scream but was too scared to make a sound. She grabbed Ellen's arm and stared at her in shock.

Ellen flashed the light her way, and then they both realized what was haunting the house. It was just an old black cat who had made the house its home.
An amusement park is opening in town next Saturday. There will be a parade, fireworks, and free admission on opening day. More than five thousand people are expected to attend. Work first began on the park two years ago. At that time the site was an unused field. It was filled with weeds and trash. Although occasional attempts had been made to clean it up, nothing had worked. Since then, more than fifty rides, a playhouse, and a picnic ground have been built. Many trees and bushes also have been planted. After opening day, admission to the park will cost three dollars. However, children under twelve will be let in free if they come with an adult. All rides will cost fifty cents, except the rollercoaster, which will cost a dollar.
It was late afternoon. Alice stood by the open barn door. She had latched the door this morning, but now it was open and her horse, Sam, was missing. Alice feared that Sam would not return before nightfall. So she decided to go look for him. A short way from the barn she spotted Sam grazing in a pasture, but he was not alone. Another horse from a neighbor's farm was alongside him. Alice was surprised to see the other horse. She got two ropes and went into the pasture after the horses. When she finally caught both of them, Alice put Sam back in the barn. Then she tried to tie the other horse to a nearby post, but he broke loose from her grasp. Alice was beginning to get angry. She tried to catch the horse again, but before she could reach him, he ran to the barn and lifted the latch with his nose. Suddenly Alice realized why the door had been open. The neighbor's horse had let Sam out.
A group of students is planning to start a nature club. Anyone interested in wild animals, birds, plants, or wilderness biking is invited to join. No membership fee will be charged.

The club is being formed in order to combine the interests of several smaller groups. In the past these groups have not had enough members to become official school clubs. At least twenty members are needed to meet school requirements.

There are several benefits to having an official club. The school provides an adult advisor, money for activities, and help in planning field trips. It also provides office space and allows the club to hold meetings during school hours. Without these benefits it is difficult for groups to function.
It was the year 1849 in the small town of Buckstown, Maryland. A young, black slave, named Harriet Tubman, decided to escape from the South and seek her freedom. Harriet awaited a chance to begin the trip northward. One evening a farmer volunteered to hide Harriet in his cart underneath a load of vegetables. Harriet was terrified that she would be caught trying to escape, but she was determined to take the risk. Harriet traveled on a route known as the Underground Railroad. The underground was not a real railroad, but an organization of people who provided rides and hiding places for slaves escaping from plantations in the South. Harriet spent several exhausting nights traveling. Finally she arrived at the Pennsylvania border. She was a free citizen for the first time in her life. Afterward, Harriet made many heroic attempts to lead other slaves to freedom in the North. Because of her courage and determination she is an important figure in the nation's history.
You can still find gold in some California streams. All you need is a metal pan and a lot of luck.
First select a place where the current is slow. Gold is carried by moving water, but drops to the stream bed where the water is still. Next scoop some gravel from the stream into your pan and gently wash out any dirt. Then put a little water in the pan and rock it in a circle so that the larger bits of gravel will spill out. Soon there should be only a handful of sand left. Look for shiny yellow particles. You can determine if these are gold by hitting them with a hammer. Real gold will flatten because it is soft.
It was winter in the town of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. This was the day Wilbur and Orville Wright planned an attempt to become the first men to fly in an engine-powered airplane. When the two men arose at dawn the wind was brisk and a threat of rain lingered in the air. The decision they had to make was difficult. It might be dangerous to fly in high winds, especially if there were a sudden gust. But if the wind held steady it could actually help them in taking off. Wilbur and Orville were nervous as they made the historic decision.

At about noon, they started the engine. Suspense mounted as the airplane moved forward and gradually lifted into the air. The machine flew for a brief twelve seconds before coming to a halt on the ground.

Wilbur and Orville were triumphant. They had accomplished their goal. Their achievement that day marked the beginning of man’s venture into the sky.

Listening Comprehension/Narr F2
A caterpillar makes a sleeping bag called a cocoon. It uses a kind of sticky thread that comes from its mouth. First the caterpillar grabs a twig with its back feet. This leaves the front part of its body free to move. Then it begins to bend and turn and spin the thread around itself and the twig like a net. But it leaves room inside the net to move around. When the net is made, the caterpillar moves its head back and forth to put in a floor. Then it fills in all the spaces in the net and finally closes it all up. After that, the caterpillar goes to sleep. When it wakes up in a few months, it will be a moth.
Hundreds of racers were set at the starting line. The most popular bicycle race in the world was about to begin. It is called the Tour de France.

As the starting gun sounded, the racers set out on a grueling and dangerous course. For 24 days they would race over 2500 miles of French countryside, through busy city streets and over rugged mountain roads.

For the first few miles racers were tense but excited. The crowds which lined every small town and village along the route cheered encouragement. Several days into the race a few cyclists had broken away from the pack. Each in turn challenged for the lead as they headed up a steep mountain pass. Determination, skill, and luck became critical factors. Some quit when they became too tired to keep peddling up the mountain. Others lost control on the way down the other side, skidding off the road and slamming into rocky ditches at speeds approaching 60 miles an hour. Several dropped out when their equipment failed.

In the end three racers headed out, seemingly alone, across the level plains toward a still distant finish line. Only one would win the money and fame that goes to the champion.

Silent Reading
Comprehension/Nar G1
The seahorse is an odd kind of fish. It is three inches tall and looks like a matchstick frame covered with fine cloth. Its skin is brown, it has a snout like a tube, and has long hairs on its head. If you watched a seahorse you might notice that it swims upright but spends most of the time with its tail hooked around sea plants. Since these plants are also brown, the seahorse is often difficult to find.

When it is hungry the seahorse eats small worms and shellfish which it sucks off plants with its long snout.

When it is time to reproduce, the female lays eggs like all other fish. But it is the male that takes care of them. He baby-sits the eggs by keeping them in a pouch until they hatch.

Thus, although the seahorse is a fish, the way it looks, swims, and hatches its eggs makes it a very unusual fish, indeed!