

effective is not the question: Americans know that good education, like good medicine, should taste bitter. While I agree with Ms. Carson that the McGuffey Reader should be put to sleep, I wish that we had a comparable reader today, one that could capture the spirit of the 1970's the way they caught the flavor of their times. But then today is more complicated -- sociologically. We are no longer a rural nation, but an urban one with different values for each major group. I doubt if even the venerable William Holmes McGuffey could come up with a common reader that would be suitable for all.

Notes

1. All references to the Moonlight Schools come from Fred E. H. Schroeder, "The Genesis of Dick and Jane" in Outlaw Aesthetics, Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1977, pp. 62-93. Anyone interested in the tradition of American school primers should read this chapter.

THE J.M.W. TURNER WATERCOLORS

Dale S. Olson
St. Cloud, Minnesota

An impression of an impression of color
brushed with a sun ray
tipped of spider silk
Images arose
never to be again
Worlds turned together
in an instant
then melted
like fog in the sun