Comprehension is the essence of reading. Children cannot be called readers unless they truly understand what they have read. Knowing how to sound out words or to recognize them is definitely important, but having these skills does not guarantee that children are getting meaning from the printed page. Too many beginning readers have failed to acquire essential comprehension skills as evidenced by the alarming number of children scoring below grade-level on standardized reading tests. Being able to understand what the author intended is the keystone of being a good reader. This series is designed to help children achieve this goal.

Books includes:
• 35 self-checking, reproducible activities and 35 creative extension exercises.
• 4 reproducible graphic organizers to help students arrange information.
• 4 overhead transparencies displaying the answer key.
• Unique, overhead viewing tool for use with the answer key, to help students focus only on the answer they need.
• Handy inside pocket to store the answer key and viewing tool.

The activities in these books are organized into seven units. Each unit targets a particular comprehension skill.
• Main idea and details
• Sequencing
• Comparing and contrasting
• Cause and effect
• Drawing conclusions
• Inference
• Making predictions

**Grades 1-2** (sample activity-see page 17)
Focus:
• Reading simple passages consisting of short sentences and a brief paragraphs
• Expressing thoughts of stories through drawing of pictures and writing exercises
• Discussing fictional stories and fairy tales, as well as non-fictional stories

**Grades 3-4** (sample activity-see page 18)
Focus:
• Reading longer passages and paragraphs
• High-interest non-fiction topics including baseball and interesting landmarks
• Writing with more creativity and less drawing of pictures to express thoughts

**Grades 5-6** (sample activity-see page 19)
Focus:
• Challenging students to read longer, more complex paragraphs
• Distinguishing between fact and opinion
• Writing more involved paragraphs on topics
Superheros

Part One

Superman and Spiderman came into existence as comic book characters. As the years went on, both also became popular in newspaper comics, television series, and big screen motion pictures. The two have supernatural powers and fight evil doers throughout the world. Superman lives as Clark Kent, a rather wimpy newspaper reporter, while Spiderman is Peter Parker, a rather wimpy high school student. When living as ordinary people, both wear glasses. However, as soon as they assume their superhero roles, their vision greatly improves. On their adventures, the two superheros wear costumes that are mainly red and blue. Superman’s costume, featuring a huge "S," was made by the woman who raised him, but Spiderman made his own hooded costume.

Superman and Spiderman are both effective crime fighters, but they definitely have different powers. Superman can fly and leap over tall buildings with a single bound. He also has x-ray vision. He is only vulnerable to kryptonite, which makes him as weak as a baby. Although Superman arrived on Earth from Krypton with his powers, he did not show them until his teens. Spiderman, who always lived on Earth, also gained his powers as a teen when he was bitten by a radioactive spider. Like Superman, Spiderman has super human strength and can leap from rooftops. He can stick to most surfaces, has an intuitive sense for danger and is able to spin and shoot webs to apprehend the villains.

Fill in the Venn diagram with as much information as you can about both superheros.

Part Two

Create a Venn diagram that will show different and similar characteristics of Batman and the Hulk or two other superheros.

UNIT THREE  COMPARING AND CONTRASTING