

**WHAT A WORLD READING AND LISTENING SECOND EDITION PEARSON LONGMAN  
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AMAZING STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, BY MILADA BROUKAL**

Reviewed by Ruth Tweto

I was able to read through Books 2 and 3. The book one that was not included is labeled as beginning. Book 2 is high-beginning and book three is listed as intermediate. The introduction page is clear and easy to read for the student. It would be a lesson in itself.

Book 2 contained 18 units while book 3 had 16 units. Each unit begins with a large one-page picture with three questions to get the reader thinking ahead. The What a World Listening levels coordinate well with their matching thematic units. The first lesson in the listening book is, What are some Different Types of Inventions? While the first lesson in the reading is, Who is the Most Important Person from History? The two match up well because the listening is about modern technology and the reading is about Gutenberg who invented the printing press.

The units contain a one-page reading, vocabulary practice, word phrase practice, comprehension segments, partner work, discussion items, a writing piece, grammar practice, and extensions for Internet activity.

The stories are non-fiction and interesting. The stories are from around the world, so interest level should be high for the ESL student. There is something for everyone from around the globe. The books also tie in history with present day problems and questions for finding solutions.

There are five pages of work with each reading so there are plenty of choices for the teacher to use depending on the needs of the student.

For assessment purposes the books each have two comprehension tests. One test covers units 1-9, the second goes to the end of the book. This test format is completely a select the answer format. Each question has a.b.c. and d. to choose from. I am not certain if this sort of assessment would be affective for the students, there are too many choices that are very similar. Also the test is over too many topics, unless it would be an open book test.

I would recommend this resource as a supplement to a reading series. It would be a wonderful refresh for occasional use.