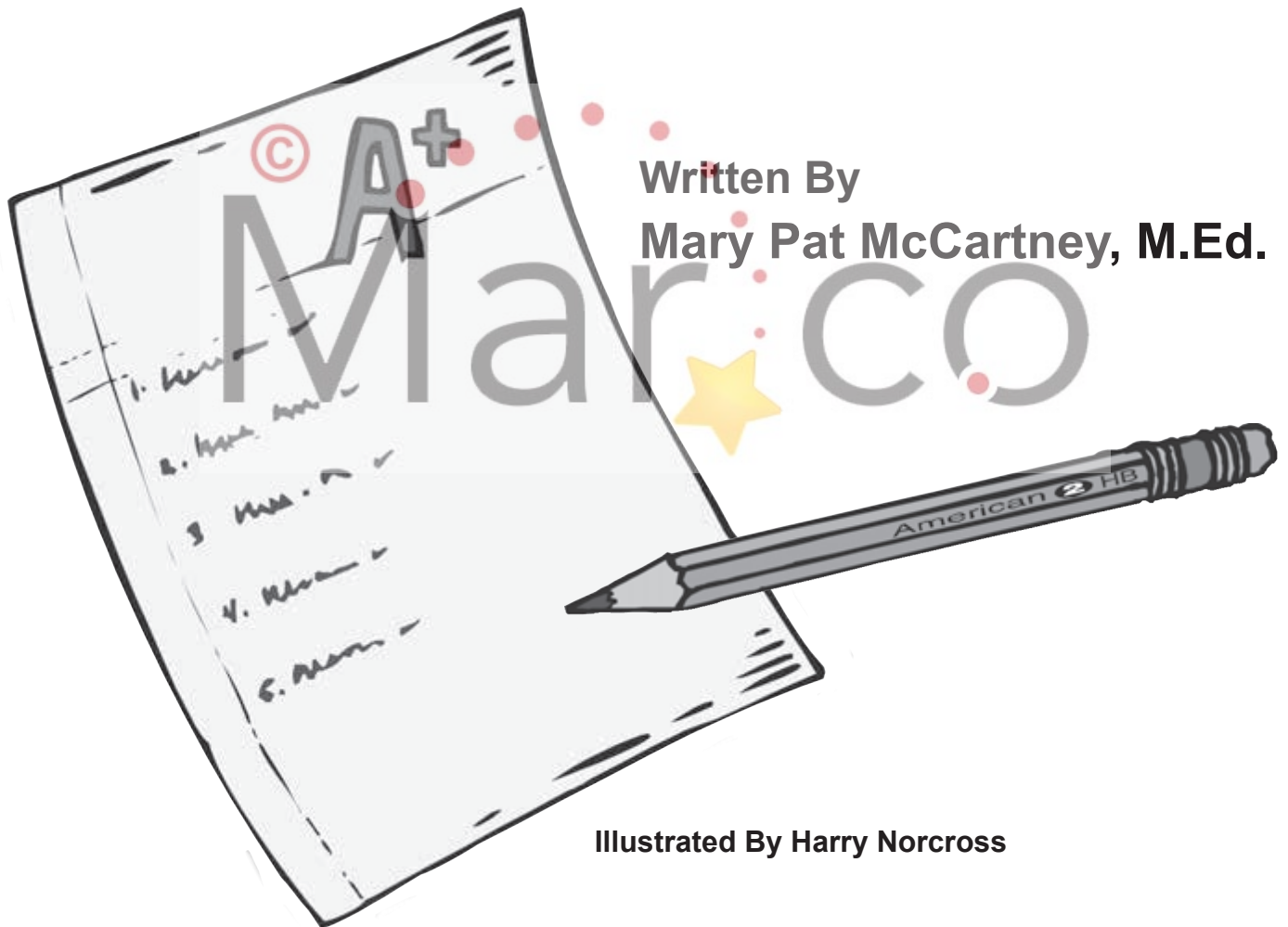
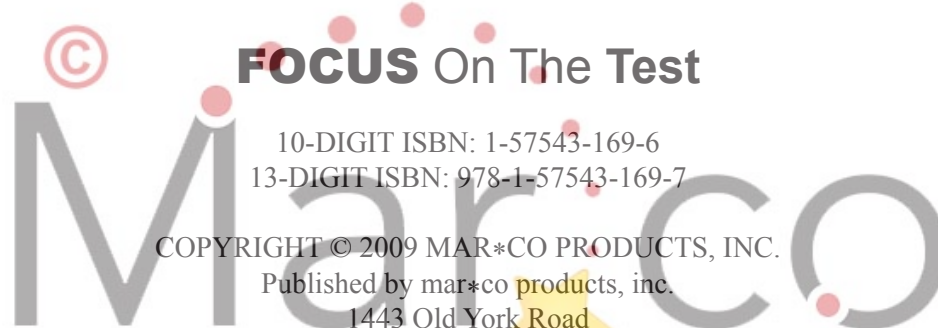


FOCUS ON THE Test

Written By
Mary Pat McCartney, M.Ed.



Illustrated By Harry Norcross



FOCUS On The Test

10-DIGIT ISBN: 1-57543-169-6
13-DIGIT ISBN: 978-1-57543-169-7

COPYRIGHT © 2009 MAR*CO PRODUCTS, INC.

Published by mar*co products, inc.

1443 Old York Road
Warminster, PA 18974

1-800-448-2197

www.marcoproducts.com

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE: The purchaser may reproduce the activity sheets, free and without special permission, for participant use for a particular group or class. Reproduction of these materials for an entire school system is forbidden.

All rights reserved. Except as provided above, no part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in whole or in part in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without permission in writing by the publisher.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
ASCA National Standards	6
Background	7
Research Results	7
LESSON 1: F = FACE IT	11
FOCUS On The Test Pre-Test	15
FOCUS On The Test Classroom Poster	16
FOCUS On The Test Mini Posters	18
FOCUS: _____ Will Focus On The Test! Worksheet	23
Test Talks Skit	24
F-O-C-U-S Song	26
My FOCUS Plan For Every Test Worksheet	27
LESSON 2: O = Organize It	28
Goldilocks And The Three Speeds Poem	31
FOCUS: Goldilocks's Words Of Wisdom Worksheet	32
Practice Test 1	33
Practice Test 1 Answer Sheet	34
LESSON 3: C = Conquer It	35
FOCUS On Me! Worksheet	38
FOCUS Bingo Instructions	39
FOCUS Bingo Calling Cards	40
FOCUS Bingo Sample Board	41
FOCUS Bingo Game Board	42
LESSON 4: U = Understand It	43
Practice Test 2	46
Practice Test 2 Answer Sheet	47
Suggested Examples For Test-Taking Tips From A To Z	48
Test-Taking Tips From A To Z Worksheet	49
LESSON 5: S = Scan It	50
Scan This! Worksheet	54
Vito Versus The Test	55
FOCUS On The Test Post-Test	61
Classroom Guidance Update Letter To Parents	62
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	64

INTRODUCTION

FOCUS On The Test is an original unit designed to teach test-taking skills to students in Grades 3–5. Each lesson teaches a testing tip related to a particular letter in *FOCUS* and provides continual reinforcement of all five *FOCUS* testing tips. The unit’s special features include:

- Five weekly lessons (a 45-minute lesson for each letter in *FOCUS*)
- a classroom poster summarizing the meaning of *FOCUS*
- Five mini-posters, one for each letter
- a pre- and post-test assessment tool
- a brief two-character skit
- a song
- Two sample tests with bubble answer sheets
- a poem
- a *FOCUS BINGO* game
- a story activity using the *FOCUS* skills
- student worksheets (which can be made into a booklet)
- a follow-up bulletin board idea
- a parent letter template

Unit components have also been used to reinforce test-taking skills in a small-group setting. Although these lessons were created for elementary students, middle school students will also benefit from them.

FOCUS On The Test lessons and activities reflect *ASCA National Standards for Academic Development* in the areas of academic self-concept, school success, goal achievement, and skills for improving learning.

FOCUS On The Test

LESSON 1: F = FACE IT

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

Students will learn what each letter in *FOCUS* stands for.

Students will identify two meanings for *FACE IT*:

1. **Face** the fact that it's important to try your best on tests.
2. Use your **Face** to help you pay attention.

Materials:

For the leader:

- *FOCUS On The Test* classroom poster (pages 16-17)
- *FOCUS Mini-Posters* (pages 18-22)
- Tape
- Glue or glue stick
- Scissors
- Board

For each student:

- *FOCUS On The Test Pre-Test* (page 15)
- *FOCUS* (page 23)
- *Test Talks Skit* (pages 24-25)
- *F-O-C-U-S Song* (page 26)
- *My FOCUS Plan For Every Test* (page 27)
- Pencil
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils



Procedure:

Introduce the unit by explaining that taking tests is part of being a student and that students need to be good at taking tests. Tell the students that the five lessons in this unit provide fun and helpful test-taking tips if they “just remember to *FOCUS*.” (Write F-O-C-U-S on the board.)

C = Conquer It



Conquer
nervous
feelings.

Conquer
negative
thoughts.

Use brain power
to study and
BEAT the test!



My **FOCUS** Plan For Every Test



Name _____

Teacher _____

FACE IT

ORGANIZE IT



CONQUER IT

UNDERSTAND IT

SCAN IT

FOCUS On The Test

LESSON 4: U = UNDERSTAND IT

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

Students will identify the meanings for *UNDERSTAND IT*:

1. Read carefully. Hear the words in your mind and **understand** them.
2. **Understand** “absolute” words (*Never, Not, Always, etc.*).

Students will review good readiness habits in preparation for taking tests.

Materials:

For the leader:

- *FOCUS Mini-Posters* from Lesson 1
- Board
- Chart from Lesson 3

For each student:

- *F-O-C-U-S Song* from Lesson 1
- *Practice Test 2* (page 46)
- *Practice Test 2 Answer Sheet* (page 47)
- *My FOCUS Plan For Every Test* from Lesson 1
- Text book

For each student group:

- *Test-Taking Tips From A To Z* (page 49)



Procedure:

Distribute the *F-O-C-U-S Song*, if necessary, to each student. Have the students sign the song, using hand gestures for each letter in FOCUS. Collect the song sheets for use in future lessons.

Give random clues to help students guess the meaning of each letter in *FOCUS*. After each correct guess, display the corresponding mini-poster.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child's class recently completed a guidance unit called *FOCUS On The Test*. The unit lessons explained the meaning of each letter in *FOCUS* as a tip for test-taking success. You can help your child perform better on tests by reviewing your child's copy of *My Plan To FOCUS On Every Test* and encouraging your child to implement these concepts:

F is for **FACE IT**

FACE IT refers to having a positive attitude about tests and paying attention.

O is for **ORGANIZE IT**

ORGANIZE your body in a testing position, work at a medium pace, and organize the answer choices.

C is for **CONQUER IT**

CONQUER negative feelings about taking tests and use *brain power* to beat the test!

U is for **UNDERSTAND IT**

Read carefully so you hear the words in your mind and understand absolutes like *all, never, etc.*

S is for **SCAN IT**

Look over the test when you're finished and check for any "trouble with the bubble" or skipped sections

The results of grade-level pre- and post-tests on unit objectives showed that the Venn diagram, poem, skit, song, game, and activity pages were enjoyable ways for students to learn about effective test-taking strategies. Thank you for providing valuable reinforcement at home. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

COUNSELOR