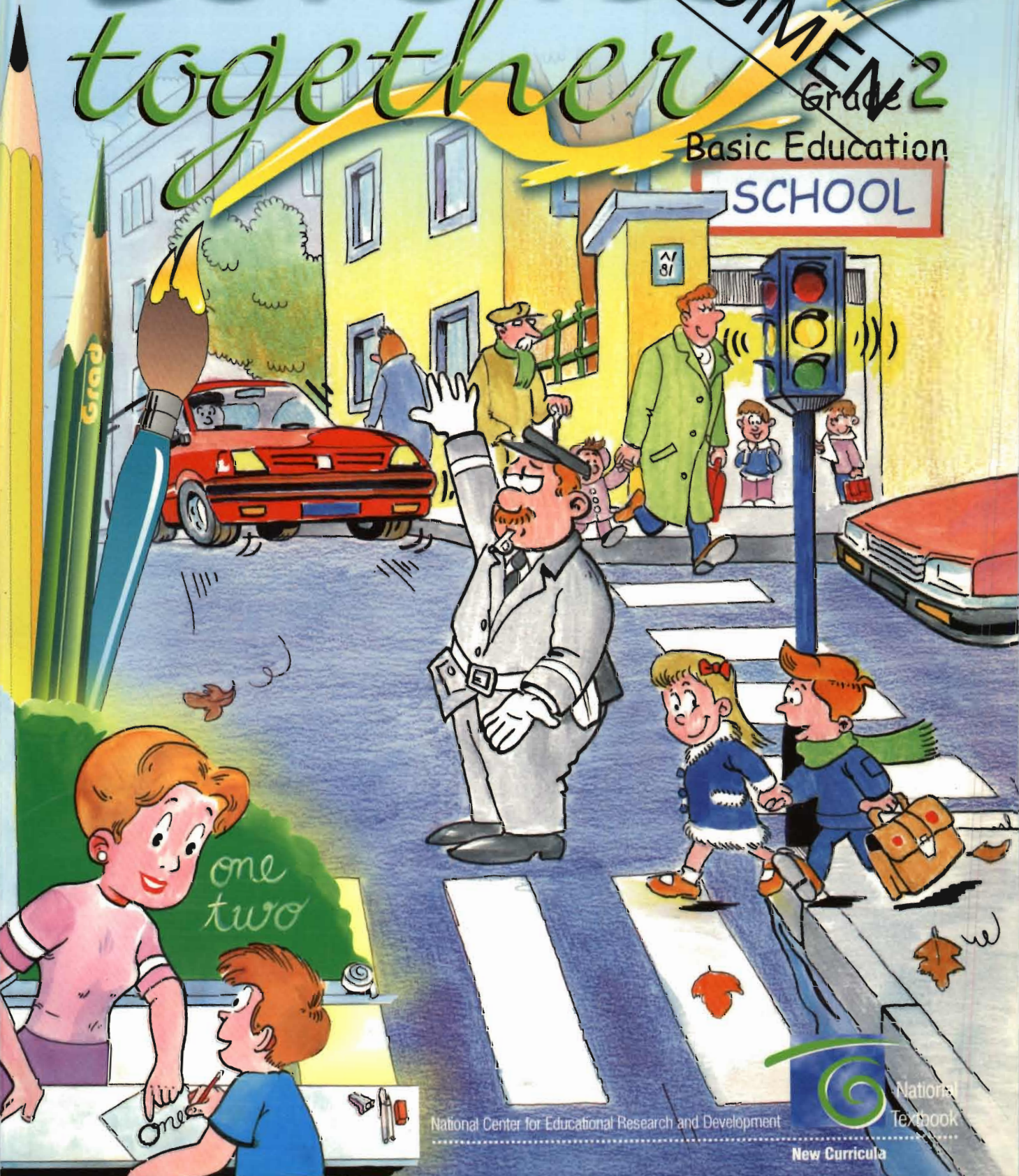


Let's learn together

SPECIMEN 2
Grade 2

Basic Education
SCHOOL



Republic of Lebanon

Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports





LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Basic Education

Grade Two

National Center for Educational Research and Development





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LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



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The National Textbook Project

This is the second installment of textbooks completed by the Center as part of a three-stage effort to produce the books called for by the New Curricula. We are placing these books in the hands of students with the great hope that we are moving, step by step, toward the goal of acquiring sound and modern learning, using sophisticated educational means and up-to-date methodology that encourage and reinforce individual thinking and research, the acquisition of skills, the development of ethical and national attitudes, the feeling of national belonging as well as the feeling of belonging to humanity at large.

The on-going revolution in information, communication and educational technology has undoubtedly limited the role of the textbook and lowered the rank it used so recently to occupy. However, in our society and in many other societies, the textbook remains the basic means of education, and it is our duty to exert our utmost effort and care to come up with the best product as to form and content. Yet we should not lose sight of the fact that the textbook is not sufficient by itself but should rather be used as a stepping stone to access other sources of information. What is important is to keep a clear vision and maintain the right course toward our objective. The means should not turn into the end and the student should always remain the focus of the learning/teaching process.

No one ignores or denies the fact that textbook writing requires very high academic and educational qualifications and very wide field experience. The authors committees undeniably possess such qualifications and qualities, yet last year's textbooks did contain some faults and gaps which were duly pointed out by researchers in many articles, and, indeed, we have benefited from some of them. Such is the nature of human work, no matter how good the intentions or how great the effort exerted.

Constructive criticism is a real contribution to raising the standard of authorship, minimizing errors and filling gaps. We only hope that criticism will always be objective and motivated by a desire to enhance educational reform in order to achieve better products.

A favorite adage handed down from our old scholars: "He who criticizes you is as helpful as a co-author". Let all criticism directed at the Center be of this caliber.

In closing, we hope that we all will have benefited from our experience and that the textbooks of the third and final stage be closer to realizing our hopes and more beneficial to our students. We are now preparing ourselves to assess the parts so far achieved of the new curricula and to assure that our educational movement is proceeding on the right track for achieving the best results.

June 2, 1999

**President, National Center for Educational
Research and Development**

Nemer FRAYHA

INTRODUCTION

Let's Learn Together, Grade 2, which is designed to cover 210 teaching hours, consists of the following components: a Student's Book, a Workbook, a Teacher's Guide, audio cassettes and instructional materials.

Student's Book

The Student's Book is comprised of five thematic units and each unit is subdivided into lessons, each of which focuses on a subtopic of the unit theme. The different themes are supported by literacy-rich materials that may help the young learners acquire the foreign language and communicate in it. Every lesson brings down variety of content-area topics as well as stories, songs, poems, etc., and it is designed to integrate the different language arts skills and to develop the critical thinking of the child. The purpose of the colorful illustrations in the book is to capture the students' imagination and encourage them to go beyond the text. Throughout the book, students are introduced to the text mascot, Kitty, along with her human and animal friends. Moreover, familiar faces recur in the text to motivate Grade 2 students to learn more about the people and the animals they have met at the beginning of the book.

Workbook

The Workbook is designed to provide practice, reinforcement and enrichment to the lessons in the Student's Book. The exercises in the Workbook are intended to help students build vocabulary, comprehension, sentence structure and free writing. The exercises also offer a pattern of on-going assessment of the target language learning objectives.

Teacher's Guide

The Teacher's Guide is carefully planned and equipped with a variety of instructional ideas. The suggestions in it are intended to give teachers the widest range of choices and to provide options that support daily instruction. To focus on real meaningful learning, the book suggests enjoyable activities that help the teacher create the suitable learning environment. All the activities encourage pair or group work that enable the students to develop social and academic skills. Moreover, each lesson opener lists its thematic and learning objectives and provides a listing of new vocabulary and instructional materials needed for the lesson.

Audiocassettes

The purpose of including the audiocassettes that contain songs, poems, chants, stories and conversations is to provide students with opportunities to develop their listening comprehension and increase their exposure to near-native accent.

Instructional Materials

Posters, word-cards and pictures have been designed for use with *Let's Learn Together, Grade 2*. The purpose of these instructional materials is to allow the students a springboard for expression and to offer them practice in multiple learning endeavors: recognition and sequencing of words, reading/speaking practice, matching of sentences with pictures, etc.

Thus, *Let's Learn Together, Grade 2*, is an English course that leads students to discover concepts and try on language patterns in different situations. It is set to arouse the students' interest in the language and to help them meet their learning needs.

The Authors

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