

# MARION MONROE, AUTHOR, DIES AT 85

UPI  
Published: June 29, 1983

**LONG BEACH, Calif., June 28—** Marion Monroe, a child psychologist who was a co-author of the "Dick, Jane and Sally" school books that introduced millions of Americans to reading, died Saturday, a spokesman said today. She was 85 years old.

Dr. Monroe died at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. The cause of death was not disclosed. She was co-author of the textbook series with the late Dr. William Gray of the University of Chicago. The books were read in schools nationwide from the 1940's through the early 1970's.

The "Dick and Jane" series was unsurpassed in terms of longevity and influence on young Americans until the the books were criticized as racist and sexist, said Charles M. Brown, associate dean of the School of Education at the University of Southern California. Allegations of Sexism

"The objection was that everybody who did anything active by way of role models was male," Dr. Brown said. "The women were pictured in the kitchen with aprons. The characters were completely white, with the white picket fence around the house. They were stereotypically north European ancestry - or WASP."

Dr. Monroe, who was born in Mount Vernon, Ind., received her undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma and obtained her masters and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Developed Reading Tests

She taught reading courses at the University of California campuses at Los Angeles and at Berkeley. She was author of the Monroe Reading Aptitude Tests and wrote numerous books.

Her other books include "Children Who Cannot Read," "Growing Into Reading," "Learn to Listen," "My First Picture Dictionary" and "The First Talking Alphabet."

Dr. Monroe, who was married to the late William Cox, is survived by a son, John Cox; two daughters, Janet McClain and Carolyn; three sisters and 17 grandchildren and great grandchildren. ---- Phonics Was Another Issue

In addition to the criticism about stereotypes, the "Dick and Jane" books drew increasing criticism from educators who favored a stronger phonics approach in reading. Those critics said "Dick and Jane" tended to stress the memorizing of whole words, the "looksee" method, instead of encouraging children to learn words by the sounds of their letters.

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
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
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
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
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