

CHARACTER & SKILLS FOR HOME & CAREERS

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

CHAPTER 1

Key topics: This chapter introduces students to auto mechanics through a narrative of a teenage boy whose father helps his son purchase and rebuild a 1957 Chevrolet Belair “hardtop.” The father coaches his son through repair of such items as brakes, cooling system, electrical parts and carburetor. The student learns about the use and safety of hydraulic jacks, come-alongs, and ramps. The student also learns about patience, hard work, commitment and diligence. In the process, the student learns about an assortment of tools such as box and open-end wrenches, socket sets, hammers, screw drivers, and filter wrenches. He learns about battery acid, engine coolant, grease, lubricants and brake fluid. While restoring the antique car, the boy studies for his driver’s license, and eventually has the privilege of driving his “very own car.”

CHAPTER 2

Key topics: This chapter introduces the student to basic concrete and carpentry skills as a local teenage baseball team helps improve their city park by designing and building a shed for storing baseball equipment. Students learn about the use of basic tools such as a hoe, shovel, rake, hammer, framing square, compass, level, measuring tape, trowel, float and hand saw. The course introduces students to basic geometry associated with preparing a foundation, walls and roof of a small shed. A group of local men serve as role models to teach the boys about carpentry, cooperation, and commitment. Students also learn how to shop for the best prices for supplies.

CHAPTER 3

Key topics: Chapter three introduces students to basic home buying and restoration through a young married couple who model kindness, diligence, commitment, love, resourcefulness and hard work. The young couple buys an older home and restores the floors, cabinets, and yard. Students learn about such equipment as power sanders, post-hole diggers, paint sprayers, tractors, and chainsaws. A prominent theme throughout the chapter is the benefit of hard work, honesty, and loyalty. Students also learn practical ways to cut expenses through exchange of labor, bargain-buying and diligent work.

CHAPTER 4

Key topics: In chapter four, students learn about a career as an electrician. The narrative introduces readers to a teenage boy who enters the electrician trade by serving as an apprentice to his father, who has contracted to wire a shop and utility room extension to a home. Students learn about the use and safety precautions of amp meters, wire strippers, pliers, outlets, switches, voltage, amperage, current, junction boxes, electric drill, and fixtures.

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CHAPTER 5

Key topics: The final chapter introduces students to the challenges of restoring an old farm house, water well and septic system. A family moves from the city to a rural community to restore the old family farm. The narrative helps students learn about basic plumbing, wiring, and disposal of sewage. Through cooperation and hard work, the family repairs and adds bathrooms, a kitchen and bedrooms. Students learn about city codes associated with electricity, waste disposal and building permits. The dad in the story line serves as a good male role model husband and father.