

Title: Graad 7 Werkboek: *Woema Afrikaans Eerste Addisionele Taal*
 Authors: Cecile Smith and Kara Smith
 ISBN: 9780992241322
 Reviewed by: Fiona de Villiers

Pikkie Publications is one of South Africa's textbook publishers that understands how to make mastering a second language easy.

At the same time, Pikkie makes the job of teaching Afrikaans less daunting for educators everywhere.

We reviewed Pikkie's Grade 7 workbook and teacher guide. Whilst they may seem heavy to carry around in the student backpack, their size and length means that all the learning to be done during the year is consolidated into one location. Many of the exercises are to be completed directly into the book and there's plenty of space to add additional helpful notes. Thus, during revision for tests or examinations, students can dip in and out of chapters, studying in an organised manner, instead of sifting through mounds of papers.

The Pikkie books get straight into things: six modules deal respectively with the themes hobbies; living in an eco-friendly way; dogs; body language; food and money. An additional module is dedicated to poetry.

These themes could easily be linked to cross-curricular teaching and learning programmes. Language, history, geography, biology and science teachers could plan ahead to create integrated and exciting experiences for their students, linked to real-world issues.

I think here particularly of module two: entitled "*Hoe groen is jou voetspoor?*" (How green is your footprint?) Learners will first be faced with a list of useful vocabulary. Each word comes with its English translation.

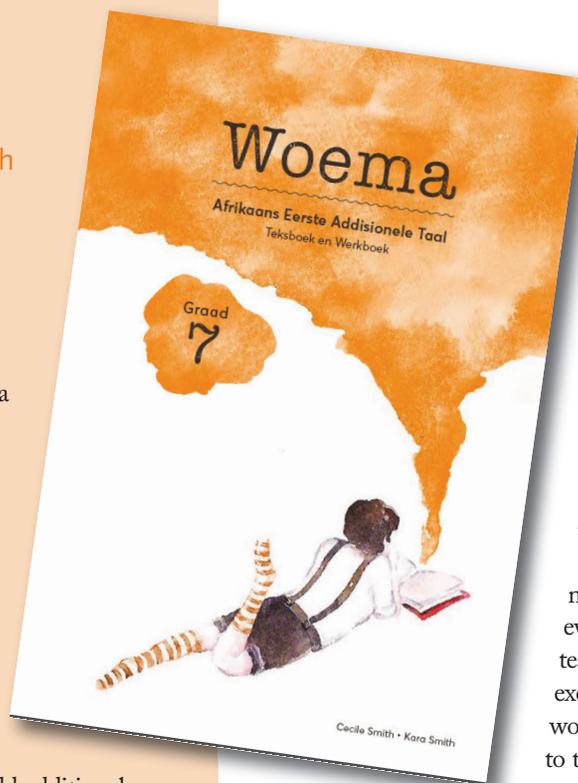
An interesting reading on "living green without difficulty" follows and learners can then answer the questions based on the reading straight into their workbooks. Cartoons have long been used in many subjects to get learners to think critically and creatively, and learners can apply themselves to one here.

Then it's time for practising how to summarise a passage (the topic is saving electricity) and instructions are clear and quite manageable.

Onto more slightly challenging tasks: learners must re-learn the importance of Afrikaans sentence structure, focussing in this instance on the verb with regard to various tenses. Helpful clues are provided inside cleverly placed stars.

In the next exercise, learners can put their expertise to work, reconstructing sentences on the topics of recycling and saving water in the house and garden. In each case, learners are given just enough guidance to get the word order right in each sentence.

The same principles apply with practising putting sentences into the future tense and restoring others to the present tense. Throughout, genuinely interesting mini-activities extend



students further and extra vocabulary is consistently on hand.

The module has extensively planned: students will go on to look at numbers in Afrikaans and how to talk and write about them; will learn the names of people who do different jobs (e.g. a plumber); will learn how to ask questions, and all about the names of other countries and related information.

Towards the end of the module, students can put everything they've learned to the test by completing "mixed exercises". They will also build word towers, speak in Afrikaans to the rest of the class, write creatively in the language and even send an SMS!

I'd love to have seen some colour pictures, but otherwise, Bravo Pikkie Publications! ❀



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