

 SCHOLASTIC

**GUIDED
READING
PROGRAMS**

Scholastic
Guided Reading
and the
Common Core
State Standards



**What Every Educator
Needs to Know**

www.scholastic.com/guidedreading

What educators are saying about **Scholastic Guided Reading...**

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"The use of Guided Reading has allowed us to differentiate instruction meaningfully and reach both our advanced and struggling readers . . . **the use of leveled texts in the classroom should be a non-negotiable.** Kids need to be exposed to books at their individual levels in order to effectively grow as readers."

—Joseph Manko, Principal of Liberty Elementary School

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"After working with Scholastic for approximately three months our teachers have been able to use the information presented to improve the needs of the students they serve. **Our scores in reading moved from 46% from the previous school year to 61%.** Teachers have become more skilled in asking questions that lead to rigorous thinking as is required by the Common Core Standards and using the reading strategies learned to create fluent readers."

—Wendy Toussaint, Instructional Coach

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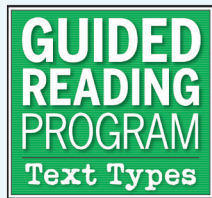
"As a teacher new to the Guided Reading process three years ago **I was amazed at the quality of the books offered through Scholastic.**

Because Scholastic offers a variety of topics and various levels of ability, all of my students are able to read exciting, entertaining, and educational material. This allows for exceptional student engagement and helps bolster confidence which will in turn provide for higher achievement among my students."

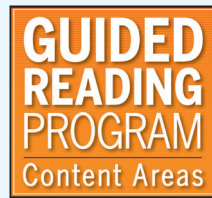
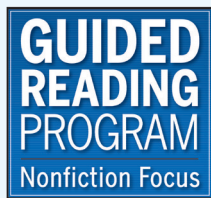
—Kimberly Campbell, 2nd Grade Teacher

For more information, visit www.scholastic.com/guidedreading
or call 1-800-387-1437

The Power of Scholastic Guided Reading



2nd Edition



There is no more effective way to ensure that students achieve reading proficiency than guided reading. In an article documenting the research base for guided reading, laquinta (2006) states that guided reading practices adhere to the recommendations of the following:

- International Reading Association
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Council of Teachers of English

Scholastic Guided Reading scaffolds students' development of essential literacy skills.

Lessons increase the volume of independent reading that students do; provide explicit instruction in accurate, fluent reading; expand academic vocabulary through reading, writing, conversation and explicit instruction; build foundational reading skills; invite students to write about reading; and, in multiple ways, create motivation for reading.

As the Common Core State Standards set the goals for student achievement, **Scholastic Guided Reading** provides teachers and students with the tools necessary to achieve these goals.

"Educators who know Fountas and Pinnell's guide to leveled texts recognize that their system for measuring texts involves measuring almost exactly what the Common Core takes into account—meaning, content, structure, vocabulary... Because the criteria used by the CCSS to assess text complexity are similar to the criteria used by Fountas and Pinnell, it seems clear that a school that is already assessing students according to Fountas and Pinnell levels should continue doing so."

(Calkins, 2011)

Works Cited

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- Calkins, L.; Ehrenworth, M. & Lehman, C. (2012). *Pathways to the Common Core: Accelerating Achievement*. Heinemann.
- Coleman, D. & Pimental, S. (2012). Revised Publisher's Criteria in English Language Arts and Literacy Grades 3-12. Retrieved from www.corestandards.org/assets/Publishers_Criteria_for_3-12.pdf
- laquinta, A. (2006). *Guided Reading: A Research-Based Response to the Challenges of Early Reading Instruction*. Early Childhood Education Journal. 33(6): 413-418.
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Scholastic Guided Reading



Leveled reading places students on an accelerated course to independent reading with accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. **Scholastic Guided Reading** is strategic, differentiated small-group instruction, and its aim is clear: to help readers process increasingly challenging, conceptually rich, complex texts on grade level. Based on forty years of irrefutable research, drawing from cognitive science and the linguistic principles that inform our understanding

of language and literacy development, **Scholastic Guided Reading** supports all readers: challenged, gifted, and those for whom English is a target language.

In short, **Scholastic Guided Reading** is a fast track to successful, independent reading, and an indispensable first step in helping achieve the primary objective of the Common Core State Standards.

"Many students will need careful instruction—including effective scaffolding—to enable them to read at the level of text complexity required by the Common Core."

(Coleman & Pimental, 2012)



The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) represent a call for action, setting high expectations for all students and teachers, and requiring top-notch curriculum materials to attain those goals. The CCSS aim to close the gap between current reading skills and what students need to achieve to be ready for college and careers.

The CCSS call for six key shifts:

1. Students need to read and understand a staircase of increasingly complex texts.
2. Students need to answer text-dependent questions and cite evidence when offering interpretation.
3. In addition to a rich reading of literature, the standards emphasize extensive reading of nonfiction genres.
4. Students need to learn critical content across the disciplines, and gain a foundation in classical literature and fundamental historical documents.
5. The standards emphasize analytical, evidence-based writing and research.
6. Students need to build academic and domain-specific vocabulary to access content across the curriculum.

"All students benefit when teachers use the guided reading instructional model. These benefits include individualized instruction, the use of books at students' reading levels, the opportunity to create and sustain meaning, the exposure to language that is context embedded, the structured format of the lesson, and the systematic evaluation of students' progress."

(Avalos, Plasencia, Chavez & Rascon, 2007)

Educators know that students will not improve in reading ability overnight. As the standards become more rigorous, so too must our commitment to providing the highest quality materials that meet the needs of each and every student.

Leveled Reading and the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core addresses the need for thoughtful, flexible scaffolding. Likewise, as students demonstrate increasing reading proficiency, **Scholastic Guided Reading** teachers gradually remove their instructional scaffolds and systematically guide students along a gradient of increasingly complex text. **The aim is to move all students quickly and efficiently into complex, grade-level text and beyond.**

CCSS Requirements	Scholastic Guided Reading Solution
<p>BUILD A STAIRCASE FOR INCREASING TEXT COMPLEXITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guided Reading is designed to help all students read increasingly complex text. ■ The Lexile range for each grade-level collection meets or exceeds CCSS recommendations. ■ Each library has been carefully leveled using a qualitative measure system factoring in reader variables such as vocabulary, language complexity, length of text, and theme.
<p>PROGRESSIVELY DEVELOP READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guided Reading provides a setting within which teachers can differentiate instruction among a diverse group of learners at various reading levels. ■ With the small group instruction model, carefully leveled books give students access to critical knowledge across the content areas and provide a venue in which teachers can scaffold the development of reading comprehension skills for each individual student. ■ English conventions and grammar usage are routinely identified and discussed through a variety of reading, writing, and speaking activities. ■ The Guided Reading model enables students to demonstrate understanding and teachers to target instruction based on real-time feedback.
<p>ANSWER HIGH-QUALITY, TEXT-DEPENDENT QUESTIONS AND TASKS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guided Reading works to help teachers lead discussions that engage students as they dive deep into text. ■ Teaching cards highlight instructional features including: Making Connections; Developing Comprehension: Thinking Within, Beyond, and About the Text; Oral Language/Conversation sections and writing exercises. ■ Teachers can prompt students to use information gained from the text and illustrations to demonstrate understanding of the story. ■ The Making Connections section on teaching cards contain suggestions for text-to-text comparisons, which furthers students' ability to ask and answer high-quality text-dependent questions. ■ These tools ultimately serve students' growth and development as critical thinkers.
<p>BUILD ACADEMIC AND DOMAIN-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guided Reading is designed to scaffold vocabulary development. ■ With each library, every book is accompanied by a teaching card that contains a vocabulary section. Content words, essential words, and related words for discussion are listed in this section. ■ Teachers use strategies to help students determine the meaning of words or phrases as they are used; these strategies include using context clues in sentences, rereading, using sticky notes for future dictionary searches, referring to illustrations, and identifying word parts. ■ Taken together, this instructional support helps students build content-area vocabulary.
<p>EMPHASIZE EXTENSIVE READING OF NONFICTION GENRES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guided Reading programs provide a deep dive into different types of literature and instruction. Three Scholastic Guided Reading programs are specifically designed to help meet this standard, including Guided Reading Content Areas, Nonfiction Focus, and Text Types. ■ Guided Reading Text Types encourages students to discover different genres and formats, and links classroom content to real-world, informational texts. ■ Guided Reading Content Areas helps develop content area knowledge while building reading skills, and provides access to a broad and exciting array of authentic informational and nonfiction texts. ■ Guided Reading Nonfiction Focus scaffolds students' abilities to read and understand nonfiction texts in an inviting and engaging way. ■ Developing students' nonfiction reading skills can be challenging, which is why the quality of the nonfiction text is critically important to student success.