

Scholastic *Guided Reading* Programs

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs*, for Grades K-6, help unlock all students' reading potential through small-group instruction, guided reading techniques, leveled authentic literature, ongoing assessment, and a gradual release model. Students become strategic and independent readers who love to read as they practice comprehension skills, analyze new vocabulary, and consider new ideas.

Instructional Content

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* are divided into six distinct programs, with no titles overlapping between programs. The authentic literature was all leveled using the A-Z leveling system developed by guided reading experts Dr. Irene C. Fountas and Dr. Gay Su Pinnell. The following outlines the six programs of instructional content:

Scholastic *Guided Reading Nonfiction Focus, 2nd Edition*

- Includes trade books comprised of 80% nonfiction and 20% fiction in a wide range of topics
- Provides 160-page Teacher's Guide featuring up-to-date sections addressing alignment to NAEP Standards, guided reading and the struggling reader, as well as analysis of informational text features
- Supplies Teaching Cards with instructional suggestions for each title, including text-dependent questions and prompts to guide deep discussion and thinking

Scholastic *Guided Reading Fiction Focus, 2nd Edition*

- Includes trade books comprised of 80% fiction and 20% nonfiction in a wide variety of genres
- Provides 160-page Teacher's Guide written by Drs. Fountas & Pinnell featuring Response to Intervention, genre descriptions, and literature discussion groups
- Supplies Teaching Cards with instructional suggestions for each title

Scholastic *Guided Reading Text Types*

- Includes trade books in a wide variety of text types, including play, graphic novel, informational text, picture book, chapter book, and poetry book
- Provides 176-page Teacher's Guide written by Drs. Fountas & Pinnell featuring sections addressing Response to Intervention, connections to everyday literacy, and NAEP-aligned procedural, expository, and persuasive writings
- Supplies Teaching Cards with instructional suggestions for each title

Scholastic *Guided Reading Short Reads*

- Includes high-quality, short informational texts, leveled from A to Z, such as speeches, articles, book reviews, diaries, historical documents, newspaper articles, and other nonfiction in high-interest topics
- Supplies in-depth lessons for each Short Read that includes key academic and domain-specific vocabulary, question prompts to promote deeper thinking and comprehension, writing extensions, and more
- Includes close reading practice in which students must cite textual evidence to demonstrate their comprehension through discussion
- Provides support for English Language Learners and leveled text for differentiating instruction

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* Program Overview

Scholastic *Guided Reading Content Areas*

- Includes trade books with titles aligned to content-area standards in Science—45%, Social Studies—40%, and Mathematics—15%
- Provides 128-page Teacher’s Guide by Dr. Gay Su Pinnell featuring sections addressing:
 - Using informational text in the primary grades
 - Story retelling as an assessment
 - Prompts to support problem-solving strategies
- Supplies Teaching Cards with instructional suggestions for every title

Scholastic *Guided Reading en español*

- Includes 90 Spanish-language trade books in a wide variety of text types
- Provides Teacher’s Guide with extension activities and assessment tools
- Supplies bilingual Teaching Cards with strategies to develop essential reading skills for moving students into English

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* align with State Academic Standards for Literature and Informational Text in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language standards. In particular, the Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs*:

- Build a staircase for increasing text complexity
- Progressively develop reading comprehension skills
- Answer high-quality, text-dependent questions and tasks
- Build academic and domain-specific vocabulary
- Emphasize extensive reading of nonfiction genres

Reading & Writing

The instruction used within the six *Guided Reading Programs* is based on guided reading research. Through the guided reading instructional approach, teachers gradually remove their instructional scaffolds and systematically guide students along a gradient of increasingly complex text. The goal is to move all students quickly and efficiently into complex, grade-level text and beyond using a gradual release model. In guided reading, teachers help children extend their understanding and vocabulary through both reading and writing. Students present their written ideas in four basic categories—persuasive, expository, narrative, and descriptive—as well as poetry.

Additionally, the teacher often engages students in follow-up activities that provide a multimodal learning approach. An example is incorporating ideas into graphic aids, such as posters, diagrams, charts, or lists. This follow-up is an ideal way to help children develop the skills of summarizing, extending meaning, analyzing aspects of text, interpreting text, and discovering the structure of text—all essential skills that are also tested on proficiency tests.

The guided reading instructional approach is backed by research involving:

- Small-groups for differentiated reading instruction
- Guided reading lessons to teach reading comprehension
- Flexible grouping of students to engage in rich conversations about text
- Leveled texts matched to students so they can read with proficiency
- Guided reading lessons that provide explicit instruction in fluency, expand vocabulary, and build phonics and phonemic awareness

FLUENCY

- Teachers select texts that students can read with 94% fluency.
- The teacher introduces the text to support comprehension and connections to language.
- Teachers draw students’ attention to elements of words that will help them recognize them rapidly.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

- Teachers select texts that, along with high-frequency words, offer opportunities to use phonics skills.
- Children apply word-solving strategies to reading continuous texts.
- Teachers explicitly teach phonics principles through word work after the text is read. Word work sessions are connected to a phonics continuum.
- Teachers offer explicit instruction in matching same sounds, blending, and attending to rhyme in text.
- Students use letter-sound information to know how words begin.
- Children use their beginning connections between letters and sounds to check on their reading.

COMPREHENSION

- Teachers select complex texts that readers can process successfully with supportive instruction.
- Teachers ask text-dependent questions.
- Teachers offer instructional guidance for *Thinking Within the Text*; *Thinking Beyond the Text*; and *Thinking About the Text*.
- The teacher demonstrates effective strategies for comprehending text, such as understanding story structure, using graphic organizers, and re-reading for information.
- Children are taught close reading, predicting, comparing and contrasting, and relating text to personal experiences.
- Students analyze stories by evaluating the author's purpose, understanding theme and story development, summarizing texts, and reading for information.

Speaking & Listening

In the Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* teachers provide specific speaking and listening demonstrations and teaching of comprehension strategies such as inferring, synthesizing, analyzing, and critiquing. Teachers prompt readers to think and talk in these strategic ways. This kind of teaching is supported by research. The National Reading Panel has suggested that teaching a combination of reading comprehension techniques is highly effective in helping students recall information, generate questions, and summarize texts. Guided reading provides a setting within which the explicit teaching of comprehending strategies is ideal:

- Teachers select texts that are within students' ability to comprehend with teaching.
- Teachers select a variety of genres and a variety of text structures within those genres.
- Teachers introduce the text to students in a way that provides background information and acquaints them with aspects of the text such as structure, content, vocabulary, and plot. This introduction does not involve reading the text to the students; rather, it is a conversation that assures deeper understanding.

Language

Research-based Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* can provide a coherent reform by effectively filling the gaps in a Reading/Language Arts curriculum, enriching it, and accelerating student achievement. The programs provide students with explicit instruction of research-based, essential language skills and strategies, as well as opportunities to practice these while they read leveled texts in a variety of genres and content areas. The following areas of language skills are implemented within the programs:

DOMAIN-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

- The teacher introduces the text, with specific attention to concepts and words.
- After reading, students and teacher discuss the meaning of the text with further discussion of word meanings, if needed.
- Children may extend the meaning of the text through writing, which includes attention to vocabulary.
- Students attend to word parts and meanings, such as affixes, word structure, etc. during word work.
- Students learn specialized content-area vocabulary in context and from glossaries.

Instructional Design

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* use a strategic, differentiated small-group instructional approach. The programs are well-designed 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 Programs* support all readers—challenged, gifted, and those for whom English is a target language.

In the guided reading process, a teacher works with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviors and can all read similar levels of texts. The text is rigorous enough for students to read with the teacher’s skillful support. The text offers challenges and opportunities for problem solving. Teachers choose selections that help students expand their strategies and studies of topics in a complex text continuum.

Assessment & Progress Monitoring

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* provide a variety of formal and informal assessment tools to help teachers differentiate instruction as needed. The Teacher’s Guides provide detailed recommendations on how to:

- Make observations of student behaviors, based on research by Drs. Fountas and Pinnell
- Match students to texts they can read with 90-94% accuracy
- Flexibly group students, based on assessment results
- Use Benchmark Books and Running Records to help determine whether a student should move to a different guided reading group (for the book-centered programs)
- Run a guided reading group

Optional *Next Step Guided Reading Assessment* (NSGRA), available at an additional cost, is a formal assessment that shows student growth over time. This classroom-tested kit provides teachers with a complete picture of each reader’s word knowledge, phonics skills, fluency, and comprehension skills. Using an *Assess-Decide-Guide* framework, the program takes teachers step-by-step through the assessment process, and then offers them clear suggestions about how to use the data to form guided reading groups, to plan and teach effective lessons, and to move students into more challenging complex texts. NSGRA has an online data management system that connects assessment directly with teaching, keeps instruction moving, and provides accountability.

Scaffolded Instruction

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* can be flexibly implemented as a complement to the core Reading/Language Arts program, as a stand-alone supplemental curriculum, for Response to Intervention, tutoring, or for after-school enrichment. The program can be used in small groups and for independent re-reading. Session length and frequency can be scaffolded to meet students’ needs, with extra time being set aside for students who need more guidance and instruction. Each Teaching Guide includes a Skills and Strategies Chart, which allows teachers to choose lessons and texts that most meet the needs of students at a particular time.

Strategies for English Language Learners

Each of the Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* comes equipped with title-related Teaching Cards, which contain an English Language Learners (ELL) Bridge lesson designed to scaffold instruction for ELLs. The lessons cover vocabulary and oral language development through a multimodal teaching approach, including pantomiming, visual props, photos, projects, etc. Additionally, Scholastic provides the *Guided Reading Program en español for Grades K-3*, which helps develop the skills that ensure an effective transition for ELL students. *Guided Reading Program en español* matches students with books they can read independently in Spanish, and build confidence they’ll carry into their English instruction. With hundreds of books, short reads, and title-related lessons, guided reading strategies, easy-to-implement assessment tools, and implementation training, Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* can effectively be used to increase reading achievement in special populations.

Strategies for Special Education Students

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* use an instructional approach well-designed for special populations of students, including students with disabilities. Guided reading strategies provide ideal intervention for students who struggle to read, because students read appropriately challenging, leveled texts, and teachers provide scaffolding and differentiated small-group instruction. An emphasis on key reading skills and word problem-solving strategies is utilized; assessment is ongoing, and students are flexibly grouped.

Motivation & Engagement

Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* motivate children with appealing books, short texts, and interest levels. Text features support student connections to the text and aid in comprehension while they practice close reading. The books include multicultural themes and characters of different ethnic groups to be all-inclusive. Students will read across the curriculum while experiencing many viewpoints on the same subject.

The guided reading process provides students with personalized support and students can see their progress recorded on the reading logs. Throughout the year, teachers use multiple assessment techniques and tools to assess students' progress so that instruction can be differentiated whenever it is needed. In addition, the programs are flexible; low-achieving students can be placed in smaller groups, meet more frequently, and spend more time per session.

Home-School Connection

Each of the five book-centered Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* provides a Home-School Letter in English and Spanish. This letter explains the program and also provides families with tips on helping their child before, during, and after reading books at home. Books on a student's guided reading level can be sent home with the students for independent reading practice and for reinforcement of skills and strategies. Additionally, students can take the reproducible Genre Bookmarks, available in English and Spanish, home to use with any book they are reading.

Professional Development

RECOMMENDED—Face-to-face training (*at an additional cost*)

To improve student achievement, districts need to have a clear vision for teaching and learning, a firm understanding of priorities, and a defined path to accomplish goals. The *Scholastic Achievement Partners* (SAP) team of proven leadership and instructional specialists can partner with school leaders to help develop and implement an actionable yearlong plan for school improvement. Scholastic professional learning is customized to meet the needs of the district and its staff. SAP provides consultants with years of classroom experience, advanced degrees in education, and a strong desire to help districts increase educator effectiveness. Two on-site Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs* implementation trainings support educators:

Guided Reading Foundational Implementation Training provides participants with a common language, knowledge, and expectations around guided reading. Participants will have a common understanding around leveled texts and common expectations around the elements of a basic guided reading lesson. In addition, participants will:

- Define guided reading
- Explain the purpose of guided reading and why it should be used
- Understand leveled text
- Learn how to guide adjustments to instruction and monitor student progress for RTI
- Explain the before-, during-, and after- sections of a guided reading lesson

Guided Reading Follow-up Implementation Training provides participants with a plan to help them implement guided reading. The plan includes systems and routines, classroom management, the first twenty days of implementation, and literacy centers. Participants will know how to gather data (assess) about students so they are able to group students for guided reading groups. Participants will also:

- Identify five centers they will use and the materials they will need; create a guided reading rotation chart
- Craft a list of systems and routines to support classroom management
- Understand how to customize learning goals to individual students' levels in RTI
- Evaluate a 20-day lesson plan for teaching centers, routines, and procedures

In addition, Scholastic offers four courses for teachers to use guided reading as a strategic instructional tool for small-group instruction to help readers process increasingly challenging texts independently and on grade level.

ABCs of Guided Reading focuses on the research of Fountas & Pinnell, and how they define and implement guided reading. This course allows participants to:

- Examine a guided reading lesson
- Learn how to form appropriate groups and choose appropriate texts for small-group instruction
- Gain a better understanding of how to assess students

Assessment and Guided Reading focuses on strategies that support teachers in identifying and understanding student's reading behaviors at each level. Participants will:

- Interpret data to focus and drive instruction
- Implement prompting and design a consistent action plan that will support reading growth at each level
- Explore how to take specific data from a word-study analysis and create targeted word-study lessons
- Learn how to scaffold student comprehension
- Analyze comprehension data and create a guided lesson that is literal, interpretive and evaluative

Digging Deeper With Guided Reading provides opportunities for teachers to explore how to put the principles of guided reading into effective practice. This course allows participants to:


- Experience hands-on activities and model lessons
- Learn how to organize, manage, and teach in small groups
- Understand how to use guided reading as a strategy to boost the reading skills of each student

Managing the Guided Reading Classroom focuses on strategies to organize and manage the guided reading classroom for optimal small-group instruction. This course allows participants to:

- Set up the classroom, plan for the first 20 days of guided reading, and schedule groups
- Form and manage literacy centers and implement authentic independent reading and writing activities
- Create an action plan to implement guided reading successfully

Job-Embedded Instructional Coaching

Scholastic offers a yearlong customized plan of in-classroom visits that provide teachers with in-person, individualized support and focused strategies for the classroom. SAP consultants build relationships with teachers to support on-model implementation, classroom management, program monitoring, and data-driven instruction. Based upon a teacher self-assessment form, the district's strategic professional learning plan can include results-oriented, holistic job-embedded instructional coaching. SAP coaches work side-by-side with teachers during the regular school day and support them in meeting the needs of every student by building skills in learner engagement, academic rigor, and real-world relevance.

 For additional information about Scholastic *Guided Reading Programs*, visit:
<http://www.scholastic.com/guidedreading>.