



Scholastic Action™ Book Collections Product Overview

**SCHOLASTIC
OFFICE OF
EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE**

Scholastic Action Book Collections offer struggling readers independent reading practice combined with scaffolded skills support. Leveled books with embedded reading strategies and targeted vocabulary foster reading success. The program features:

- Quality hi-lo fiction and nonfiction books with motivating, age-appropriate topics
- Teacher's Guides with lesson plans that support differentiated instruction
- Student activities that reinforce skills presented in the books

Instructional Content

Each *Action Book Collection* focuses on one of four subjects and contains titles aligned to state and national standards. The Social Studies and Science strands include nonfiction text features such as charts and maps that help students practice content-area reading strategies. Books in the Classics and Language Arts strands provide essential cultural literacy, as well as familiarity with important literary genres.

Reading

Vocabulary

- In each book, targeted words and definitions precede the text to help students build essential concepts for understanding the book.
- Located at strategic junctures in the text, Heads Up! questions provide skills support, including drawing attention to important vocabulary words at their point of usage.
- Each book contains a glossary of high-utility vocabulary words, which are also boldfaced throughout the book.
- By completing exercises in the Reader's Notes activity booklets and from the Teacher's Guide, students are further exposed to critical vocabulary and increase their understanding of targeted words.

Fluency

- In Upper Elementary collections, students read aloud their favorite passages using appropriate phrasing, expression, and intonation.

Comprehension

- Reader Tips at the beginning of each book give students comprehension strategies; one tip focuses on text structure, while the other highlights a key comprehension skill.
- Heads Up! questions appear at strategic places in the text to scaffold students' reading. The questions give students a "heads up" regarding such factors as important background knowledge and comprehension monitoring.
- The program teaches students multiple comprehension strategies and skills, including cause/effect, main idea/details, sequencing, and summarizing.
- Students use graphic organizers, complete exercises, and discuss text structure to help them understand the book.

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Writing

- The program connects writing to reading by including standards-based writing prompts, which direct students to write paragraphs in expository, persuasive, descriptive, narrative, and other styles.
- Before, during, and after reading, students respond to questions, Quick Writes, and writing prompts in the Reader's Notes activity booklets by writing lists, sentences, and paragraphs.

Instructional Design

Action Book Collections are available for Upper Elementary (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12) students. The program provides leveled books in Classics, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies themes. Collections can be used for content-area learning, after-school programs, reading groups, or other times to meet the needs of struggling readers.

Three components—the **Action Books**, the Reader's Notes, and the Teacher's Guide—work together to support readers and to provide structured engagement and accountability for their reading.

- **Action Books** contain built-in support, such as Heads Up! questions that scaffold students' reading, reader tips, graphic elements, and background material.
- Students use the four-page Reader's Notes as they read, responding to checklists, questions, writing prompts, and comprehension and vocabulary exercises.
- Each two-page lesson plan in the Teacher's Guide builds on the skills and strategies presented in the corresponding book and Reader's Notes activity booklets. Lessons include support for students before, during, and after they read the book. The flexible plans include teaching options for monitoring progress, providing intervention support, and facilitating student discussions.

Assessments

Lesson plans contain grading criteria for writing assignments, and teachers use the Reader's Notes Assessment Guide to determine a grade for each student's responses in the activity booklets. Answers are provided in the Teacher's Guide. The Reader's Notes can easily be kept in students' portfolios as a record of their work on each **Action Book Collection**. *Scholastic Reading Counts!* software and computerized quizzes for the books in each collection provide another assessment of text comprehension.

Motivation and Engagement

Action Books are age-appropriate, motivating, captivating, and inspire a joy of reading. Written in a reader-friendly style, the books also contain original illustrations, outstanding photographs, maps, charts, and other interesting graphic elements, all with captions that help connect images to text.

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Intervention Strategies

Each Collection features hi-lo books at multiple readability levels to meet the varying needs of students. The Lexile Framework® for Reading, a research proven system for measuring reading ability and text difficulty, was used to determine book levels with the program. Students are matched to text at their level so they can experience reading success.

After checking students' responses to activities in the Reader's Notes, teachers intervene with skills and strategies support provided in the Teacher's Guides. Lesson plans also include strategies for English Language Learners.

Home-School Connection

Students can take the books home and share them with family members. During conferences, teachers can discuss with caregivers their child's program participation and progress.

Professional Development

The ***Scholastic Action Book Collections*** program is supported by these *Scholastic Red* facilitated online courses:

- Guided Reading: Making It Work In Your Classroom, Grades K-6
- Building Decoding Skills & Strategies, Grades 3-5
- Improving Reading Comprehension, Grades 3-5
- Improving Fluency, Grades 3-8
- Improving Decoding Skills & Strategies, Grades 6-8
- Middle School Literacy: Improving Text Comprehension
- High School Literacy: Comprehension Through Active, Strategic Reading

These professional development courses provide:

- Instant access to research and theory
- Video modeling of research-based practices
- Interactive simulations that allow for practice of skills and strategies
- Structured feedback, collaboration, and ongoing support
- Materials that can be immediately used in the classroom