# Scholastic Decodable Readers™
## Product Overview

*Scholastic Decodable Readers* are eight-page, sound-controlled books that gradually increase in difficulty, reviewing phonic elements as they incorporate new skills. Designed for students in Kindergarten through Grade 2, these 88 carefully sequenced books effectively supplement any comprehensive reading or phonics program.

**SCHOLASTIC OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

## Instructional Content

*Decodable Readers* are systematic, explicit, and controlled. Each book concentrates on certain sounds and contains words commonly found in beginning reading materials. The readers' repetitive language, as well as their continuous review of previously taught words and phonics skills, contributes to early reading success. The series meets all California and Texas decodability requirements. In addition, the books align with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

### Phonics
- The program begins by reviewing high-utility consonants and short vowels.
- Children progress to decoding words that include other consonants, digraphs, diphthongs, blends, variant vowels, and advanced phonic elements.

### Fluency
- After the teacher guides students through the blending strategy for every decodable word, children reread each sentence in a more natural manner, using appropriate voice inflections whenever possible.
- Teachers pace children as they read the story chorally.
- Students can reread books throughout the week to increase their reading rate.

### Vocabulary
- Each **Decodable Reader** introduces new high-frequency words and reviews ones that have been previously taught.
- Students learn new story words in context.

### Comprehension
- Children preview the book by reading the story title and examining the cover.
- Students predict what they think the story will be about.
- After children have read the story, the teacher asks them questions about their understanding of it.

## Instructional Design

***Decodable Readers*** give children the opportunity to practice their growing knowledge of sound-spelling correspondences in the context of engaging stories.  The program follows the following routine, which is detailed in the Take-Home Books compilation:

1. Students browse through the book.
2. With teacher guidance, children read and reread the story chorally.
3. Children discuss the book in class and answer questions posed by the teacher.
4. Students reread the story aloud to themselves, with a partner, and silently.
5. Teachers circulate around the room, monitor children's reading, and make note of their progress.
6. Children take home a reproducible version of each ***Decodable Reader*** that is read in class.

## Motivation and Engagement

The colorful covers of the ***Decodable Readers*** are inviting, and children enjoy reading the clever stories.  The books also contain interesting black-and-white illustrations that connect to the text.  The ease of decodability, as well as the continual review of sounds and high-frequency words, enables children to read successfully and to build their reading confidence.

## Intervention Strategies

Struggling readers and students acquiring English benefit from the gradual introduction and repetition of sounds in the ***Decodable Readers.***  Students who experience difficulty reading the books practice reading at lower levels than the rest of the class.  During choral reading, teachers provide students with prompts to help them decode words they are having trouble blending.

## Home-School Connection

A Parent Letter is available in English and Spanish.  Included with the Take-Home Books component, it suggests meaningful ways for parents to extend learning while reading the books with their child.  For example, the child points out a particular word each time it appears in the story.  Parents can encourage their child to color the books to help increase understanding of the story.

## Professional Development

***Scholastic Decodable Readers*** are supported by the *Scholastic Red* facilitated online course, "Putting Reading First in Your Classroom."   The course lessons cover strategies for teaching the five essential elements of reading:  phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.  This professional development solution provides:

- 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