Scholastic READ XL™ >>
Product Overview

READ XL helps older, struggling readers master essential skills, build confidence, and achieve measurable reading improvement. The program uses age-appropriate nonfiction and fiction, increasingly demanding text, and scaffolded instruction targeted to individual needs. Components include:

- *Teacher's Guide* with comprehensive, student-focused lesson plans
- Student Anthology/Pupil Book, focused on nonfiction selections, that includes reading strategies and skills practice
- Practice materials, including Electronic Text Collection on CD-ROM, Independent Library with Lexile® leveled books, Shared Novels, Audiobook Library, and practice and test preparation workbooks
- Assessments to inform instruction

Instructional Content

Research-based **READ XL** provides direct instruction and practice in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, writing, research skills, study skills, test-taking strategies, and real-world reading skills (functional reading). Over 60% of the student selections are high-interest nonfiction and relate to content-area learning, while engaging fiction selections are relevant and age-appropriate. The program meets the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

Reading

Phonics
- Each anthology lesson presents a phonics strategy or skill that students apply.
- Children learn blending, syllabication, variant vowels, digraphs, multisyllabic words, r-controlled vowels, and other word analysis/decoding strategies.

Fluency
- Students practice phrasing, self-correction, pacing, and expressiveness as they read aloud to a partner or a small group.
- Fluency is modeled by teachers while reading Shared Novels, and by narrators on audiocassettes.

Vocabulary
- Each lesson presents in context explicit instruction in determining word meaning and applying vocabulary strategies.
- Students click on vocabulary words in the Electronic Text Collection to see definitions.

Comprehension
- Lessons present skills and strategies through direct instruction and selection-specific discussion questions; students practice and review.
- The student anthology poses "Ask Yourself" questions that promote the application of comprehension and self-monitoring skills and strategies as students read.
- Children use graphic organizers to organize information visually.

Writing

- Teachers model how to use a prewriting graphic organizer to develop ideas.
- Students write informative/expository, expressive/narrative, and persuasive paragraphs.
- Assignments relate to the targeted comprehension skill for each selection.

Instructional Design

READ XL, which is designed for students in Grades 6 and above, can be used in various time blocks and has flexible teaching options. The program builds reading skills through a balance of instructional reading (2/3 of class time) and supported, independent reading (1/3 of class time).

- Instructional Reading, which provides direct, systematic skills development, practice, and review, is delivered through the Student Anthology and *Teacher's Guide* lesson plans. Each lesson plan includes a week's worth of instruction divided into these sessions:

    o Prepare the Reader
    o Guide the Reader
    o Evaluate Success
    o Practice Real-World Reading

    The anthology selections are arranged developmentally, beginning three years below grade level and progressing up to grade level. Selections are sequenced using the Lexile Framework® for Reading, which measures text difficulty.

- Independent Reading promotes practice and application of reading skills and strategies at students' reading levels. Throughout the week, students read leveled books, listen to audiocassettes, and use interactive CDs.

Assessments

READ XL assessments test student mastery of targeted reading skills and strategies and help teachers differentiate instruction to meet student needs.

Screening/Diagnostic

Teachers administer formal Selection Tests that assess comprehension skills, word study strategies, and vocabulary development. The answer keys in the *Assessment Book* not only provide the correct responses, but also list the skill measured by each question. The *Teacher's Edition* gives intervention suggestions for each skill based on student scores.

Teachers use the selection "Wrap-Up" in the *Teacher's Guide* to informally assess students' comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. In addition, teachers assess fluency by using the phrasing, smoothness, and pacing criteria.

READ XL can be used in conjunction with *Scholastic Reading Inventory*, which reports student reading levels using Lexile measures. Students can then be matched to appropriately challenging books in the Independent Library.

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Motivation and Engagement

The program keeps students' interest through highly appealing texts and targeted support. Each lesson begins with a "Create Interest" section that engages students with a provocative idea and writing prompt related to the reading. **READ XL** texts include real-world documents that promote literacy in relevant contexts. The Student Anthology contains engaging, age-appropriate texts in a variety of fiction and nonfiction genres. In addition, the Independent Library contains leveled books that students can choose themselves and read successfully.

Intervention Strategies

The entire program is designed to help struggling readers increase their reading skills and achieve success. **READ XL** uses in-depth, systematic instruction that is customized to students' needs based on their reading level, background, interests, and self-esteem. Learning scaffolds, such as graphic organizers, high-interest materials, and modeling help bring students up to grade level.

The *Teacher's Guide* contains these extra supports to help teachers differentiate instruction:

- Reteaching, practice, and instruction ideas for students who need additional help in learning comprehension, word study/vocabulary, fluency, and test-taking skills
- Modeling and coaching tips to support the teachers of struggling readers
- Intervention ideas for students based on their Selection Test results
- Specific language concepts and activities to modify instruction for English Language Learners
- Spanish/English cognates that teachers use to help Spanish-speaking students relate vocabulary to words from their native language

Home-School Connection

READ XL encourages teachers to communicate with families and invite their involvement. In the Home-School Connection letter, available in English and Spanish, teachers inform parents about what their children are working on in class and ways to help support their children's literacy development. The *Professional Development* guide provides teachers with suggestions for parents to encourage children to read at home. The guide also gives teachers tips for involving parents, such as sending books, reading logs, and reading lists home with students.

Professional Development

Professional Development: A Research-Based Training Guide for Teachers and Administrators presents important reading research that supports the **READ XL** program and concrete suggestions for putting balanced reading research into action. The guide discusses:

- Best practices for reading instruction and for independent/modeled reading
- Appropriate reading selections for struggling readers
- Classroom management strategies
- Using **READ XL** assessment resources
- Writing, study skills, and research skills instruction
- Ways to involve parents in the **READ XL** program

READ XL is supported by three facilitated, online *Scholastic Red* professional development courses:

- Improving Decoding Skills & Strategies, Grades 6-8
- Middle School Literacy: Improving Text Comprehension
- High School Literacy: Comprehension Through Active, Strategic Reading

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

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