



**SCHOLASTIC
OFFICE OF
EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE**

Scholastic Sprint Reading™

Product Overview

Scholastic Sprint Reading is a research-based program that provides struggling readers with books they can read successfully and with skills and strategies they can use to become better readers. Components include:

- Leveled, age-appropriate high-interest fiction and nonfiction
- Direct, systematic instruction in reading and writing skills
- Skills practice and reading support for each book
- Continuous assessment through formal and informal measures

Instructional Content

Sprint Reading meets federal standards by helping students build the five essential elements of reading as identified in the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. In addition, the program delivers writing instruction that connects to students' reading.

Reading

Phonemic Awareness

- Phonemic awareness instruction provides students with practice in manipulating individual sounds, or phonemes, within words. Instruction includes rhyming, oral blending, and oral segmentation.
- The routines correlate to the phonics skill taught in the lesson.

Phonics

- Through systematic, explicit instruction, students learn strategies for decoding unfamiliar words. Instruction topics include consonants, short and long vowels, r-controlled vowels, vowel pairs, diphthongs, polysyllabic words, and open/closed syllables.
- Corresponding pages in the *Student Workbook* provide students with practice in applying phonics strategies.

Fluency

- Teachers model fluency by reading with correct intonation, appropriate pauses, expression, and reading rate using phrase-cued text and other passages.
- Using the *Student Workbook*, students build fluency by reading aloud passages; they do repeated readings of the passage throughout the week.

Vocabulary

- Teachers introduce students to the vocabulary words from the reading selection, and then teach a vocabulary strategy to help students recognize unfamiliar words.
- In each lesson, students reinforce words and skills by completing pages in the *Student Workbook*.

(continued)

Sprint Reading: Product Overview

Comprehension

- Students draw conclusions, compare/contrast, determine cause/effect, make inferences, evaluate author's purpose, and use other comprehension strategies.
- Workbook exercises provide practice in applying the comprehension skills taught, and graphic organizers aid students' understanding of text.

Writing

- Teachers present writing guidelines and model how to use graphic organizers.
- Students write narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive paragraphs.
- Using a checklist, students review their drafts for correct grammar, capitalization, and punctuation and publish a final copy.

Instructional Design

There are 12 leveled ***Sprint Reading*** Collections—six collections are suitable for Upper Elementary and six for Middle School students. The Lexile Framework® for Reading, the research proven system for measuring students' reading levels and matching readers to text, leveled the books in each Collection. ***Sprint Reading*** benefits students who have approximate reading levels between Grades 1.5 and 6.0.

Sprint Reading is flexible and can be used in whole-class instruction, small-group instruction, extended-day or after-school instruction, and independent reading. Each four-page lesson plan in the *Teacher's Guide* presents direct instruction for before, during, and after reading, and provides writing guidelines, support for English as a Second Language students, strategies to monitor and assess comprehension, extra support routines, and a home/school connection.

Students read books in the appropriate ***Sprint Reading*** Collection. The *Student Workbook*, which contains six worksheets for each book, provides students with intensive support in vocabulary, phonics/word study, comprehension, fluency, and writing.

Assessments

Sprint Reading provides formal and informal assessment opportunities that can be used to place students at the appropriate level of the program and to help teachers differentiate instruction.

Screening

The *Placement Guides* contain tests for each level of the program. Each test includes five multiple-choice items measuring knowledge of vocabulary, a literature selection excerpted from one of the books in a Collection, and 10 comprehension questions about the selection. Teachers use the results to help determine each student's ***Sprint Reading*** level and the most appropriate placement in the program.

(continued)

Diagnostic

Teachers observe students daily as they read ***Sprint Reading*** books, noticing how they apply phonics skills, use vocabulary words, and incorporate targeted comprehension skills. The Comprehension Check *Student Workbook* page for each book is keyed to intervention strategies based on students' scores. The Monitor Comprehension section in the *Teacher's Guide* also helps teachers evaluate students' reading comprehension for each ***Sprint Reading*** book. Teachers assess student writing using rubrics provided in the *Teacher's Guide*.

Progress Monitoring

Placement Tests or the optional *Scholastic Reading Inventory*, which measures students' reading comprehension levels, can be administered periodically to monitor students' reading progress. *Scholastic Reading Counts!* software and computerized quizzes for the books in each collection provide yet another assessment of text comprehension. Teachers can create a portfolio for each child that includes anecdotal records of observations, Placement Tests, writing samples, student worksheets, a Student Profile, and Rate Your Reading forms.

Motivation and Engagement

Sprint Reading books are leveled so that students experience reading success while practicing valuable skills and strategies. Children also enjoy reading, because the high-interest, age-appropriate texts include:

- Fiction by award-winning authors
- Recent titles from popular series
- Intriguing, content-area nonfiction
- Biographies of famous and inspirational people

Intervention Strategies

The *Teacher's Guide* provides extra support routines for phonics/word study, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, English Language Learners, and writing. Each Teaching Plan designates which routine to use to strengthen specific skills based on *Student Workbook* activity scores. Each Teaching Plan also suggests ways to help ELL students develop their social, culturally appropriate, and academic language and high frequency vocabulary.

Home-School Connection

Teachers send families letters with fluency activities and discussion ideas for each book. Each Teaching Plan provides suggestions for book-related activities that students can do at home or with family members. During conferences, teachers discuss with caregivers their child's program participation, progress, and homework tips.

Professional Development

The ***Scholastic Sprint Reading*** program is supported by six *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

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