

Beginning Reading Skills—Getting Your Students Ready to Participate in the Literature-Based Programs Series Launchers and Reading for Success

Young readers need to have the basics of initial decoding in place before they can successfully receive instruction in beginning chapter books. We recommend beginning readers first learn the basics of decoding in reading programs such as Readers Club (Novel Ideas, Inc.), Reading Mastery K, I, and II (McGraw-Hill Education), Read Well Beginning Levels (Sopris West), or the Primary Phonics Program (Educators Publishing) or any other phonics based basal before they begin working in chapter books.

The early curriculum maps at the bottom of this page offer schools a beginning sequence using Reading Mastery I and II Classic (McGraw-Hill Education) and Readers Club (Novel Ideas, Inc.) as an example. The other reading programs that are recommended above can be used in the place of Reading Mastery. During the planning process, you can go back to earlier titles on the plan, but should not jump ahead if your students do not yet have the readability level to work in the materials at the instructional level. The readability levels designated are based on a teacher using the novel study instructionally as prescribed.

For example, it would not be appropriate to have students do the Series Launcher for *Henry and Mudge* if they are not reading at a mid-grade one readability instructionally (90% accuracy at 25-50 words per minute). They do not need to be reading at this level independently to participate in the novel study (95% accuracy at more than 50 words per minute). You may decide that you would like to have your students go back to do the Series Launcher for *Mouse Tales* if it was not taught earlier. This would be an appropriate instructional decision. However, to jump a student at this reading level ahead to *The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo* might place them at the frustration level.

Individualized curriculum plans can be developed for your school or district by the authors of these programs on request. Placement tests for all novel studies can be found on the Novel Ideas, Inc. website: novelideas-inc.com

Kindergarten

Language Arts

Reading Mastery I—Lessons 1-160

At Lesson 82 students can start Readers Club

Once students have finished RM Classic I or Signature K, they should go through the Level I Series Launchers in the following order:

Mouse Tales (SL) → Little Bear (SL) → Henry and Mudge: The First Book (SL) → Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia (SL)

*Note: High performing K groups who finish the sequence before the end of the year, can begin RM II Classic or Signature I.

Grade One

Language Arts

Reading Mastery II Classic or Signature I—Lessons 1-160

Students should go through the Level I and II Series Launchers in the following order:

Nate the Great and the Big Sniff (SL) (should have completed L. 75 of RM II Classic/Signature I) → Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth (SL) (should have completed L. 89 of RM II Classic/Signature I) → The One in the Middle Is the Green Kangaroo (SL) → Genies Don't Ride Bicycles (SL) (should have completed L. 126 of RM II Classic/Signature I) → end of RM II Classic/Signature I.

Recommended Sequence Combining Series Launchers and Reading for Success

The following is a recommended sequence of instruction for schools who wish to use these novels as a trade-based reading program or to use it to supplement a basal reading program with unabridged novels and novel studies. During the planning process, you can go back to earlier titles on the plan, but should not jump ahead if your students do not yet have the readability level to work in the materials at the instructional level. The readability levels designated are based on a teacher using the novel instructionally as prescribed.

For example, it would not be appropriate to have students do the novel study for *Holes* if they are not reading at a mid-grade 4 level instructionally (90% accuracy at 80-100 words per minute). They do not need to be reading at this level independently to participate in the novel study (95% accuracy at 100-150 words per minute). You may decide that you would like to have your students go back to do the Series Launcher for *If Your Name was Changed on Ellis Island* to learn summary writing or to do *Abby Takes a Stand* because learning about the civil rights movement is part of your social studies curriculum. This would be an appropriate instructional decision. However, to jump a student at this reading level ahead to *Island of the Blue Dolphins* might place them at the frustration level.

Individualized curriculum plans can be developed for your school or district by the authors of these programs on request.

Title	Program	Readability	Lexile	Interest Level	Standards Covered
Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus	SL	Gr. 2.9	380	Gr. 1-5	Gr. 2-4
Dinosaurs Before Dark	SL	Gr. 2.6	240	Gr. 1-7	Gr. 2-4
Sprite's Secret	SL	Gr. 2.8	200	Gr. 1-5	Gr. 2-4
Julian's Glorious Summer	SL	Gr. 3.1	480	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 3-5
Horrible Harry and the Dungeon	SL	Gr. 3.1	430	Gr. 1-7	Gr. 3-5
The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds	SL	Gr. 3.2	420	Gr. 2-5	Gr. 3-5
The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet	SL	Gr. 2.9	380	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 3-5
The New Kid at School	SL	Gr. 3.3	500	Gr. 1-7	Gr. 2-4
The Absent Author	SL	Gr. 3.4	510	Gr. 1-7	Gr. 2-4
Stanley and the Magic Lamp	SL	Gr. 3.7	620	Gr. 2-5	Gr. 2-4
Tippy Lemmey	RFS	Gr. 3.4	380	Gr. 3-5	Gr. 3-5
Andrew Lost: On the Dog	SL	Gr. 3.4	490	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 3-5
Julian, Secret Agent	RFS	Gr. 3.1	460	Gr. 2-5	Gr. 3-5
Ramona Quimby, Age 8	RFS	Gr. 3.2	860	Gr. 2-5	Gr. 3-5
The Littles Take a Trip	SL	Gr. 3.6	700	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 3-5
The Boxcar Children Book 1	SL	Gr. 3.9	520	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 3-5
The Most Beautiful Place in the World	RFS	Gr. 3.7	830	Gr. 3-5	Gr. 3-5
The Gadget War	RFS	Gr. 3.7	540	Gr. 4-7	Gr. 4-6
The Awesome Aquarium Mystery	SL	Gr. 3.9	725	Gr. 2-6	Gr. 3-5
Who Stole the Wizard of Oz?	RFS	Gr. 3.6	520	Gr. 3-6	Gr. 3-5
Abby Takes a Stand	SL	Gr. 3.6		Gr. 4-8	Gr. 5-7
The Box Car Children: Copy Cat Mystery	RFS	Gr. 3.0	530	Gr. 2-7	Gr. 2-4
If Your Name Was Changed on Ellis Island	SL	Gr. 3.9	720	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 5-7
The Buried Bones Mystery	SL	Gr. 3.9	500	Gr. 3-7	Gr. 4-6
Stone Fox	RFS	Gr. 4.0	550	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 4-6

Title	Program	Readability	Lexile	Interest Level	Standards Covered
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	RFS	Gr. 4.1	630	Gr. 3-7	Gr. 4-6
Charlotte's Web	RFS	Gr. 4.4	680	Gr. 3-7	Gr. 4-6
Journey to Jo'Burg	RFS	Gr. 5.0	760	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 5-7
Little House in the Big Woods	RFS	Gr. 5.3	930	Gr. 3-7	Gr. 4-6
Where the Red Fern Grows	RFS	Gr. 4.9	700	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Freedom Crossing	RFS	Gr. 4.4	720	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 4-6
The Enormous Egg	RFS	Gr. 5.0	900	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 5-7
Philip Hall Likes Me. I Reckon Maybe.	RFS	Gr. 5.2	900	Gr. 5-7	Gr. 5-7
Dive Book One: The Discovery	RFS	Gr. 4.0	760	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 5-7
Bud, Not Buddy	RFS	Gr. 5.0	950	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Stuart Little	RFS	Gr. 6.0	920	Gr. 5-7	Gr. 5-7
Holes	RFS	Gr. 4.6	660	Gr. 4-8	Gr. 6-8
Maniac Magee	RFS	Gr. 4.7	820	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
The Sign of the Beaver	RFS	Gr. 4.9	800	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 5-7
Esperanza Rising	RFS	Gr. 5.0	750	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
The Wanderer	RFS	Gr. 5.2	830	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
King of the Wind	RFS	Gr. 5.4	830	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 5-7
The Clay Marble	RFS	Gr. 5.4	860	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
Island of the Blue Dolphins	RFS	Gr. 5.5	1000	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	RFS	Gr. 5.7	940	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 5-8
Hatchet	RFS	Gr. 5.7	1020	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Ben and Me	RFS	Gr. 6.9	1010	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
The Other Side of Truth	RFS	Gr. 5.4	710	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Hush	RFS	Gr. 4.6	640	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
Soldier's Heart	RFS	Gr. 5.7	1000	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Iqbal	RFS	Gr. 5.4	730	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
A Single Shard	RFS	Gr. 6.2	920	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
The Door in the Wall	RFS	Gr. 6.5	990	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
Touching Spirit Bear	RFS	Gr. 5.0	670	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
My Brother Sam is Dead	RFS	Gr. 5.3	770	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8
The Giver	RFS	Gr. 5.7	760	Gr. 7-8	Gr. 6-8
Of Beetles and Angels	RFS	Gr. 7.0	975	Gr. 5-8	Gr. 6-8
Secret of the Andes	RFS	Gr. 7.0	710	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 6-8