

**Alabama State Standards
correlated to
Merit Software Reading Comprehension Basic Programs**

The Classroom Improvement Section is responsible for the development, implementation, and assessment of the minimum curriculum content (standards) and course design for K-12 students in the public schools. It is responsible for instructional support that includes courses of study, instructional materials and research, curriculum alignment materials, recognition and scholarship programs, the textbook adoption program, and counseling and guidance services. The most recent English Language Arts Course of Study for was adopted in 1999 for implementation in the 2001-2002 school year.

Merit’s Reading Comprehension Basic programs address the following Alabama State Standards:

- Grade 3 pg. 1
- Grade 4 pg. 4
- Grade 5 pg. 6

Grade 3

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1. Use a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and construct meaning from print materials.	Using knowledge of letter-sound correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using structural analysis Examples: roots, prefixes, suffixes • Applying prior knowledge and experiences • Using knowledge of word meaning • Applying knowledge of sentence structure and context • Previewing and predicting • Locating information in reference sources 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Reading	2.Exhibit awareness of how text features are used to convey meaning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles • Headings • Graphic aids • Glossary • Boldfaced print • Index • Table of contents 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	3.Demonstrate literal understanding of print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying important details • Identifying sequence of events • Following directions 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	5. Interpret passages in print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying main idea • Drawing conclusions • Determining cause and effect • Identifying fact and opinion • Summarizing passages • Identifying author's purpose 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	7. Use literary analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and analyzing literary elements • Character • Setting • Plot, including problem and solution • Point of view • Identifying figurative language 	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	9. Choose to read a variety of literature representative of various genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction • Nonfiction • Poetry 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Reading	15. Identify ways fictional characters and events reflect real experiences.	Example: relating hardships faced by pioneers in literature to hardships faced by families today	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	16. Employ study strategies to gain information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previewing • Predicting • Questioning • Following directions • Sequencing • Locating • Taking notes • Using graphic organizers 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	17. Relate to the experiences and feelings of literary characters.	No benchmark	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	18. Use appropriate reference sources with assistance for a variety of purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictionary • Encyclopedia • Globe • Chart • Electronic media • Newspaper • Thesaurus 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Grade 4

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1. Use a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and construct meaning from print materials.	Applying prior knowledge and experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using knowledge of word meaning • Applying knowledge of sentence structure and context • Previewing and predicting • Using structural analysis of words Examples: roots, prefixes, suffixes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating information in reference sources 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	2. Exhibit awareness of how text features are used to convey meaning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles • Headings • Graphic aids • Glossary • Boldfaced print • Index • Table of contents 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	3. Demonstrate literal understanding of print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying important details • Identifying sequence of events • Following directions 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	5. Interpret passages in print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying main idea • Drawing conclusions • Determining cause and effect • Identifying fact and opinion • Summarizing passages • Identifying author's purpose 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Reading	7. Use literary analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and analyzing literary elements Character Setting Plot, including problem and solution Point of view Identifying figurative language 	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	9. Choose to read a variety of literature representative of various genres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Nonfiction Poetry 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	15. Identify ways fictional characters and events reflect real experiences.	Example: relating hardships faced by pioneers in literature to hardships faced by families today	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	16. Employ study strategies to gain information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previewing Predicting Questioning Following directions Sequencing Locating Taking notes Using graphic organizers 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	17. Relate to the experiences and feelings of literary characters.	No benchmark	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	18. Use appropriate reference sources with assistance for a variety of purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dictionary Encyclopedia Globe Chart Electronic media Newspaper Thesaurus 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1. Use a wide range of strategies to interpret, evaluate, appreciate, and construct meaning from print materials.	Applying prior knowledge and experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using knowledge of word meaning • Applying knowledge of sentence structure and context • Previewing and predicting • Using structural analysis of words Examples: roots, prefixes, suffixes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating information in reference sources 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	2. Use text features to gain meaning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles • Headings • Graphic aids • Glossary • Boldfaced print • Index • Table of contents 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	4. Demonstrate literal understanding of print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying important details • Identifying sequence of events • Following directions 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	5. Interpret passages in print material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying main idea • Drawing conclusions • Determining cause and effect • Distinguishing fact and opinion • Detecting bias • Summarizing passages • Identifying author's purpose 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Reading	7. Use literary analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and analyzing literary elements Theme Character Setting Plot, including problem and solution Point of view Identifying and understanding figurative language 	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1
Reading	9. Recognize the features of a variety of genres.	No benchmark	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	10. Read and view literature representative of various cultures, eras, genres, and ideas to develop an appreciation of their heritage and that of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction Nonfiction Poetry Prose Drama 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	11. Monitor own reading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-questioning Rereading Using context clues Adjusting speed Accessing prior knowledge and experience 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	12. Read a variety of materials and genres encountered in daily lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textual examples: classroom texts, encyclopedias Functional examples: directions, schedules Recreational examples: literature, writing by self and peers 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Reading	15. Recognize persuasive techniques found in a variety of sources.	Examples: advertisements, Internet, speeches, newspaper editorial	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	19. Employ study strategies to gain information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previewing • Predicting • Questioning • Following directions • Sequencing • Locating • Taking notes • Using graphic organizers • Skimming • Scanning • Outlining 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Reading	21. Use appropriate reference sources with assistance for a variety of purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dictionary • Encyclopedia • Thesaurus • Maps and globes • Charts • Electronic media • Newspapers • Telephone Directories 	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction, Set 1; Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2