

**Content Standards for California Public Schools  
correlated to  
Merit Software Reading Comprehension Basic Programs**

The *English-Language Arts Content Standards for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve* represents a strong consensus on the skills, knowledge, and abilities that all students should be able to master in language arts at specific grade levels during 13 years in the California public school system. Each standard describes the content students need to master by the end of each grade level (kindergarten through grade eight) or cluster of grade levels (grades nine and ten and grades eleven and twelve). In accordance with *Education Code* Section 60603, as added by Assembly Bill 265 (Chapter 975, Statutes of 1995), the Leroy Greene California Assessment of Academic Achievement Act, there will be performance standards that "define various levels of competence at each grade level . . . [and] gauge the degree to which a student has met the content standards."

Merit’s Reading Comprehension Basic programs address the following California Language Arts standards:

- Grade 3                    pg. 1-3
- Grade 4                    pg. 4-7
- Grade 5                    pg. 7-10

Grade 3

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.2 Ask questions and support answers by connecting prior knowledge with literal information found in, and inferred from, the text.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.3 Demonstrate comprehension by identifying answers in the text.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.4 Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.5 Distinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository text.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.6 Extract appropriate and significant information from the text, including problems and solutions.	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	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).	3.1 Distinguish common forms of literature (e.g., poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction).	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	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).	3.3 Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Respond Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Sets 1-2
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).	3.4 Determine the underlying theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.	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, Sets 1-2; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).	1.1 Create a single paragraph: a. Develop a topic sentence; b. Include simple supporting facts and details.	Read and Respond Punch
Writing	2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics) Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.	2.1 Write narratives: a. Provide a context within which an action takes place; b. Include well-chosen details to develop the plot; c. Provide insight into why the selected incident is memorable.	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1; Accu-Reading, Sets 1-2; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Grade 4

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.	1.2 Apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, synonyms, antonyms, and idioms to determine the meaning of words and phrases.	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	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.	1.3 Use knowledge of root words to determine the meaning of unknown words within a passage.	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	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.	1.4 Know common roots and affixes derived from Greek and Latin and use this knowledge to analyze the meaning of complex words (e.g., international).	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.1 Identify structural patterns found in informational text (e.g., compare and contrast, cause and effect, sequential or chronological order, proposition and support) to strengthen comprehension.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.2 Use appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes (e.g., full comprehension, location of information, personal enjoyment).	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.3 Make and confirm predictions about text by using prior knowledge and ideas presented in the text itself, including illustrations, titles, topic sentences, important words, and foreshadowing clues.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources).	2.6 Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion in expository text.	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	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).	3.2 Identify the main events of the plot, their causes, and the influence of each event on future actions.	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
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).	1.1 Select a focus, an organizational structure, and a point of view based upon purpose, audience, length, and format requirements.	Read and Respond Punch
Writing	2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics) Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.	2.1 Write narratives: a. Relate ideas, observations, or recollections of an event or experience; b. Provide a context to enable the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience; c. Use concrete sensory details; d. Provide insight into why the selected event or experience is memorable.	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Writing	2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics) Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.	2.4 Write summaries that contain the main ideas of the reading selection and the most significant details.	Read and Respond Punch
Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.1 Use simple and compound sentences in writing and speaking.	Read and Respond Punch

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Benchmark	Merit Software
Reading	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.	1.2 Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words.	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	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.	1.3 Understand and explain frequently used synonyms, antonyms, and homographs.	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	1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.	1.4 Know abstract, derived roots and affixes from Greek and Latin and use this knowledge to analyze the meaning of complex words (e.g., controversial).	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.	2.3 Discern main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.	2.4 Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.	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	2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials) Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.	2.5 Distinguish facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.	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	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature. They begin to find ways to clarify the ideas and make connections between literary works.	3.2 Identify the main problem or conflict of the plot and explain how it is resolved.	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
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits the students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.	1.1 Create multiple-paragraph narrative compositions: a. Establish and develop a situation or plot; b. Describe the setting; c. Present an ending.	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2
Writing	2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics) Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.	2.2 Write responses to literature: a. Demonstrate an understanding of a literary work; b. Support judgments through references to the text and to prior knowledge; c. Develop interpretations that exhibit careful reading and understanding.	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

Written and Oral English Language Conventions	1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.	1.4. Use correct capitalization.	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
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