

**Content Standards for California Public Schools
correlated to
Merit Software Reading Comprehension Intermediate 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 Intermediate programs address the following California Language Arts standards:

- Grade 6 pg. 1-2
- Grade 7 pg. 3-4
- Grade 8 pg. 4-5

Grade 6

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.	Vocabulary and Concept Development 1.4 Monitor expository text for unknown words or words with novel meanings by using word, sentence, and paragraph clues to determine meaning.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction Set 1, Literature Based Reading Series 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text 3.2 Analyze the effect of the qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness) on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.	Literature Based Reading Series 1

Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.3 Analyze the influence of setting on the problem and its resolution.	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.6 Identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Writing	1.0 Writing Strategies Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits 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.	1.6 Revise writing to improve the organization and consistency of ideas within and between paragraphs.	Developing Critical Thinking Skills, 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 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.	2.4 Write responses to literature: a. Develop an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight; b. Organize the interpretation around several clear ideas, premises, or images; c. Develop and justify the interpretation through sustained use of examples and textual evidence.	Literature-Based Reading Series 1; Reading Comprehension Booster; Read and Write Punch; Reading Shape-Up Set 1; Accu-Reading, Set 1; Real World Reading Skills, Sets 1-2

Grade 7

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 knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixes to understand content-area vocabulary.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction Set 1, Literature Based Reading Series 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.2 Identify events that advance the plot and determine how each event explains past or present action(s) or foreshadows future action(s).	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.3 Analyze characterization as delineated through a character's thoughts, words, speech patterns, and actions; the narrator's description; and the thoughts, words, and actions of other characters.	Literature Based Reading Series 1

Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.4 Identify and analyze recurring themes across works (e.g., the value of bravery, loyalty, and friendship; the effects of loneliness).	Literature Based Reading Series 1
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Grade 8

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.	1.3 Use word meanings within the appropriate context and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison, or contrast.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction Set 1, Literature Based Reading Series 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 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. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students. In addition, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information).	2.6 Use information from a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents to explain a situation or decision and to solve a problem.	Developing Critical Thinking Skills Set 1, Reading Critically Non-Fiction Set 1, Real World Reading Skills Set 2
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.2 Evaluate the structural elements of the plot (e.g., subplots, parallel episodes, climax), the plot's development, and the way in which conflicts are (or are not) addressed and resolved.	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.	3.4 Analyze the relevance of the setting (e.g., place, time, customs) to the mood, tone, and meaning of the text.	Reading Shape Up Set 2, Accu-Reading Set 1, Literature Based Reading Series 1

Reading	<p>3.0 Literary Response and Analysis Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works. The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.</p>	<p>3.5 Identify and analyze recurring themes (e.g., good versus evil) across traditional and contemporary works.</p>	<p>Literature Based Reading Series 1</p>
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