

**Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing  
correlated to  
Merit Software Reading Comprehension Basic Programs**

The ability to communicate clearly -- to read, write, speak, and listen -- forms the core of human culture. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are essential tools for learning, for success in the workplace, for enriching and expanding our lives, and for responsible citizenship. Language skills are particularly critical in the area of education. Through language abilities, students understand the academic content areas. Success in learning is grounded in students acquiring solid knowledge and skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The Colorado Model Content Standards set high expectations in these areas for all students.

Merit’s Reading Comprehension Basic programs address the following Colorado Model Content Standards for Reading and Writing:

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

Grades 3-4

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Reading	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using a full range of strategies to comprehend materials such as directions, nonfiction material, rhymes and poems, and stories.</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use comprehension skills such as previewing, predicting, inferring, comparing and contrasting, re-reading and self-monitoring, summarizing, identifying the author's purpose, determining the main idea, and applying knowledge of foreshadowing, metaphor, simile, symbolism, and other figures of speech;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make connections between their reading and what they already know, and identify what they need to know about a topic before reading about it;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adjust reading strategies for different purposes such as reading carefully, idea by idea; skimming and scanning; fitting materials into an organizational pattern, such as reading a novel chronologically; finding information to support particular ideas; and finding the sequence of steps in a technical publication;</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make predictions, analyze, draw conclusions, and discriminate between fact and opinion in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and viewing;</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing to define and solve problems;</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the purpose, perspective, and historical and cultural influences of a speaker, author, or director</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formulating questions about what they read, write, hear, and view;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading, responding to, and discussing a variety of literature such as folk tales, legends, myths, fiction, rhymes and poems, non-fiction, and content-area reading;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reading, responding to, and discussing literature as a way to explore the similarities and differences among stories and the ways in which those stories reflect the ethnic background of the author and the culture in which they were written;</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognizing the concept of classic or enduring literature, and reading and listening to classic works;</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using literary terminology such as setting, plot, character, problem, and solution; and</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using new vocabulary from literature in other context.</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1

Grade 5

Subhead	Standard	Grade Level Expectation	Merit Software
Reading	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using a full range of strategies to comprehend technical writing, newspapers, magazines, poetry, short stories, plays, and novels in addition to the types of reading material mentioned above. Students extend their thinking and understanding as they read stories about people from similar and different backgrounds.</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use comprehension skills such as previewing, predicting, inferring, comparing and contrasting, re-reading and self-monitoring, summarizing, identifying the author's purpose, determining the main idea, and applying knowledge of foreshadowing, metaphor, simile, symbolism, and other figures of speech;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make connections between their reading and what they already know, and identify what they need to know about a topic before reading about it;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use word recognition skills and resources such as phonics, context clues, picture clues, word origins, and word order clues; reference guides; roots, prefixes, and suffixes of words for comprehension;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and understand a variety of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use information from their reading to increase vocabulary and enhance language usage.</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make predictions, analyze, draw conclusions, and discriminate between fact and opinion in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and viewing;</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing to define and solve problems;</li> </ul>	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	Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify the purpose, perspective, and historical and cultural influences of a speaker, author, or director; and</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read literature to understand places, people, events, and vocabulary, both familiar and unfamiliar;</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1
Reading	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reading, responding to, and discussing a variety of novels, poetry, short stories, non-fiction, content-area and technical material, and plays;</li> </ul>	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	Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reading, responding to, and discussing literature that represents points of view from places, people, and events that are familiar and unfamiliar;</li> </ul>	Literature Based Reading Series 1