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Introduction

Comprehension is the goal of every reading task. The *Read and Succeed: Comprehension* series can help lay the foundation of comprehension skills that are essential for a lifetime of learning. The series was written specifically to provide the purposeful practice students need in order to succeed in reading comprehension. The more students practice, the more confident and capable they can become.

Why You Need This Book

- **It is standards based.** The skill practice pages are aligned to the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) standards. (See page 7.)
- **It has focused lessons.** Each practice page covers a key comprehension skill. Skills are addressed multiple times to provide several opportunities for mastery.
- **It employs advanced organization.** Having students encounter the question page first gives them a “heads up” when they approach the text, thereby enhancing comprehension and promoting critical-thinking abilities.
- **It has appropriate reading levels.** All passages have a grade level calculated based on the Shell Education leveling system, which was developed under the guidance of Dr. Timothy Rasinski, along with the staff at Shell Education.
- **It has an interactive whiteboard-compatible Teacher Resource CD.** This can be used to enhance instruction and support literacy skills.

How to Use This Book

First, determine what sequence will best benefit your students. Work through the book in order (as the skills become progressively more difficult) to cover all key skills. For reinforcement of specific skills, select skills as needed.

Then determine what instructional setting you will use. See below for suggestions for a variety of instructional settings:

| Whole-Class or Small-Group Instruction | Independent Practice or Centers | Homework |
|--|--|--|
| Read and discuss the Skill Focus. Write the name of the skill on the board. | Create a folder for each student. Include a copy of the selected skill practice page and passage. | Give each student a copy of the selected skill practice page and passage. |
| Read and discuss responses to each question. Read the text when directed (as a group, in pairs, or individually). | Have students complete the skill practice page. Remind them to begin by reading the Skill Focus and to read the passage when directed. | Have students complete the skill practice page. Remind them to begin by reading the Skill Focus and to read the passage when directed. |
| Read and discuss the Critical Thinking question. Allow time for discussion before having students write their responses. | Collect the skill practice pages and check students' answers. Or, provide each student with a copy of the answer key (pages 138–149). | Collect the skill practice pages and check students' answers. Or, provide each student with a copy of the answer key (pages 138–149). |

Plot

Skill Focus



Every story, no matter how short, has a plot. The plot is the problem and its solution.

1. Read the story. What is the girls' problem at the beginning of the story?

2. What does Lani think is the solution to their problem?

3. How do the girls put Lani's idea into action?

4. Was Kai and Lani's problem solved? Explain.

Critical Thinking



What do you think will happen next? Explain.

Fantastic First Job

Kai and her sister Lani wanted to buy their mom a Mother's Day gift. But they didn't have any money in their piggy banks. Lani said they should try to earn some money.

"We can't get jobs," Kai said. "We're just kids!"

Just then, Lani had a bright idea. "Let's make our own business. We can walk dogs or mow lawns," she said. "We can make fliers and pass them out to neighbors."

The girls printed colorful fliers and walked up and down the street, giving them to their neighbors. One neighbor told the girls she was going on vacation. She decided to let the sisters watch her dog while she was gone. Every day, the girls walked the dog and gave him fresh food and clean water. They even played fetch with him at the park. When the neighbor came back a few days later, she gave each girl 10 dollars.

"Now we can get Mom a nice present!" Lani said.



Main Idea

Skill Focus



The main idea is what a text is about. Sometimes the main idea is stated in a sentence in the text. At other times, you have to figure out the main idea on your own.

1. Read the text. Fill in the graphic organizer below with the main idea. Then, in the boxes beneath it, write three details that support the main idea.

Main Idea

Detail

Detail

Detail

Critical Thinking



How did the title help you understand the main idea of the text?

Forests

Forests are large areas of land. They have mostly trees and some other plants. In the forest, there are tall trees. The trees rise above the plants that grow near the forest floor.

Some forests have trees with leaves that change color in autumn. The leaves fall to the ground in winter. Then the trees rest. New leaves grow the next spring.

In other forests, evergreen trees grow. These trees are different. Their leaves do not change color and fall off. These trees stay green all year long. Most evergreen trees have needles instead of leaves. They also grow cones.

