

# Research based resources supported by Alpha II Learning Systems:



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## Reading For Concepts & New Practice Readers (Phoenix Learning)

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The series provides a solid reading comprehension program. Interesting and informative articles are found from across the curriculum. Stories are unified by themes to develop comprehension and critical thinking skills.

*...the following designs dominate expository text structure: sequence/process, cause/effect, comparison/contrast, problem/solution, and general-to-specific. Each pattern has a recognizable format, a main idea with a specific function and distinct linking words.*

*...Reading for Concepts A-H ranging from the first grade level to college reading levels, contain collections of excerpts and selections appropriately based upon these structural patterns."*

Excerpt from:

Educational Research Quarterly Vol.20.3 1997

"Using Metacognitive Strategies to Facilitate Expository Text Mastery" Author, Mueller

Identified as 'Materials for Developing Comprehension'

- **How to Increase Reading Ability** (Harris and Sipay)

## Specific Skill Series – Barnell Loft (SRA)

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- Getting the Main Idea
- Drawing Conclusions
- Getting the Fact
- Using the Context
- Following Directions
- Working Within Words

Presents and reinforces key comprehension skills. Utilized in classrooms over the past 25 years.

Reading First – Aligned with **NCLB** standards.

Identified as 'Materials for Developing Comprehension'

- **How to Increase Reading Ability** (Harris and Sipay)

## SRA Reading Labs 1a, 2a, 3a (SRA)

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Used in the classroom over the past **40 years** and assisting over **100 million students**, SRA Labs continue to help K-12 students become better readers. Readings are self-paced. Range of reading levels allow an entire classroom's needs to be met.

Identified as 'Materials for Developing Comprehension'

- **How to Increase Reading Ability** (Harris and Sipay)

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## Critical Thinking (Harcourt/Steck-Vaughn)

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Teaching students *how* to learn.

Based on **Bloom's Taxonomy** of Educational Objectives, Critical Thinking will allow students to garner more knowledge from new information by knowing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating. A brief review in each unit provides frequent indications of student mastery.

**Objectives/skills:**

Classifying; outlining and summarizing; comparing and contrasting; identifying structure, main ideas, and relationships; ordering objects; estimating; inferring; abstract or concrete; parts of a story; and more.

Real and fanciful, fact and opinion, definition and example, steps in a process, anticipating probabilities, recognizing fallacies, synthesis skills, evaluation skills, identifying values, and more.

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## Vocabulary Connections (Harcourt/Steck-Vaughn)

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**Curriculum-based lessons, content-area tie-ins, varied practice and writing activities - powerful ways to build vocabulary!**

This series helps students become engaged in **building vocabulary through cloze passages, using words in context, and making analogies**. Lessons build around thematically organized literature. Nonfiction selections provide meaningful context for essential vocabulary words. Test-taking tips in each lesson prepare students for success with standardized testing formats.

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## Sequence (Harcourt/Steck-Vaughn)

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This series provides students with the opportunity to identify order of events and the temporal relationship between one event/step to other events/steps. Sequence clues such as dates, times of day, seasons, words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *finally*. Students will learn that sequence can be implied. Verb tense and positioning of phrases within a sentence, or sentence within a paragraph will provide clues to sequencing. **Students will be able to recognize that the order of events/steps which enhances overall reading comprehension.**

Writing exercises included.

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## Reading for Understanding (SRA)

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This kit was designed to help develop reading comprehension. The RFU kit contains systematic exercises in graduated levels of difficulty. Skills of focus are:

- **Critical thinking**
- **Analyzing**
- **Predicting outcomes**
- **Making inferences**
- **Drawing conclusions**
- **Compare & contrast**
- **Cause & effect**
- **Distinguish specific to general**

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- **How to Increase Reading Ability** (Harris and Sipay)

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## Resource contacts:

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**SRA** .....888-SRA-4543 • [www.sraonline.com](http://www.sraonline.com)

**Harcourt Achieve** .....800-531-5015 • [www.HarcourtAchieve.com](http://www.HarcourtAchieve.com)

**Phoenix Learning Resources**.....800-221-1274 • [www.phoenixlearninggroup.com](http://www.phoenixlearninggroup.com)

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