# Strategies o A Chieve eading uccess



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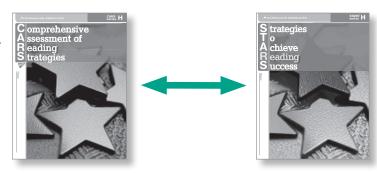
# Using the CARS® and STARS® Series

# CARS® Series

**Diagnose** needs of the class by administering the Pretest

**Benchmark** during instruction to monitor progress, using longer reading passages

**Assess** mastery by administering the Post Test



# STARS® Series

**Instruct** the class in 1 to 12 strategies, based on students' needs (differentiate instruction using Books K–H)



# What are the CARS® and STARS® Series?

The *CARS*® and *STARS*® *Series* are a comprehensive resource that allows you to identify and teach essential reading comprehension strategies. As the diagram above indicates, the *CARS*® *Series* is the assessment component, and the *STARS*® *Series* is the instruction component.

# CARS® Series

The *CARS® Series* is a diagnostic reading series that allows you to identify and assess a student's level of mastery for each of 12 reading strategies. It contains a Pretest, Benchmarks, and a Post Test. This ten-level series is designed for students in grades K through 8. The *CARS® Series* helps teachers place students in the companion *STARS® Series* for reading instruction and remediation.

# STARS® Series

The *STARS® Series* is a prescriptive reading series that provides essential instruction in the same 12 reading strategies as the diagnostic *CARS® Series*. This ten-level series is also designed for students in grades K through 8. The *STARS® Series* provides precise instruction in and practice with the strategies students need to master in order to achieve reading success.

Book H in both the *CARS*® and *STARS*® *Series* features the following 12 reading strategies:

- Finding Main Idea
- Recalling Facts and Details
- Understanding Sequence
- Recognizing Cause and Effect
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Making Predictions
- Finding Word Meaning in Context
- Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences
- Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion
- Identifying Author's Purpose
- Interpreting Figurative Language
- Summarizing







# How do I get started with the CARS® and STARS® Series?

As shown in the diagram on page 4, the *CARS® Series* is used to diagnose the needs of the class, monitor students' progress, and assess students' mastery of the strategies. The *STARS® Series* is used to instruct the class in targeted reading strategies, based on the diagnosis from the *CARS® Series*.

To get started, use the following steps:

# 1. Diagnose

Administer the Pretest in the *CARS® Series* to diagnose the needs of the students in your class. (See the *CARS®* teacher guide for additional information.)

### 2. Instruct

# With One or More Strategy Lessons

Based on the results of the *CARS*® diagnosis, assign students one or more strategy lessons in the *STARS*® *Series* to remediate specific areas that need improvement and reinforcement. Each strategy lesson can be completed in five 30–45 minute sessions.

# With All 12 Strategy Lessons

Or, have students complete an entire *STARS*<sup>®</sup> student book in order to build and reinforce their basic knowledge of all 12 reading strategies. (See the Suggested Pacing Chart on page 9 for assigning all 12 strategies in the *CARS*<sup>®</sup> and *STARS*<sup>®</sup> *Series*.)

For information about differentiating instruction, see pages 7 and 10–11.

### 3. Benchmark

Use the five Benchmarks in the *CARS® Series* and the Review Lessons in the *STARS® Series* (see page 7) to monitor students' progress.

### 4. Assess

Use the Post Test in the *CARS® Series* and the Final Review in the *STARS® Series* to assess mastery of the strategies taught in the *STARS® Series* (see page 7).



# Why do the *CARS*® and *STARS*® *Series* concentrate on 12 reading strategies?

The reading strategies in these series were based on reviews of the following:

- State standards and tests across the nation
- Current research on reading comprehension
- Gaps in basal or core reading programs

The strategies in both series cover a range of areas that lead to success in reading comprehension:

- Literal comprehension
- Inferential comprehension
- Text structure and organizational patterns
- Vocabulary and concept development
- Metacognitive strategies

Practice in these reading strategies leads to success on state tests as well as improves students' overall reading comprehension.



# How do researchers define the relationship between skills and strategies?

According to Regie Routman (2000), strategies are the thinking, problem-solving processes that the learner deliberately initiates, incorporates, and applies to construct meaning. At this point, the reading strategies become instinctively incorporated into one's reading.

According to Afflerbach et al. (2008), when a reading strategy becomes effortless and automatic, the strategy has become a skill. Reading skills operate without the reader's deliberate control or conscious awareness.







# What is in the STARS® student book?

# **Strategy Lessons**

Each student book contains 12 strategy lessons, one lesson for each reading strategy. Each ten-page lesson provides instruction and practice in the targeted reading strategy. Students read several passages and answer 16 strategy-based selected-response (multiple-choice) questions.

The strategy lessons are scaffolded, providing a gradual release of support. Each lesson moves from modeled instruction to guided instruction to modeled practice to guided practice to independent practice. (See Features of a *STARS*® Lesson on pages 12–23 for more information about the strategy lessons.)

# **Review Lessons**

A four-page review lesson follows every three strategy lessons. Students read two longer passages and answer 12 selected-response questions that focus on the target reading strategies in the three previous lessons.

# Final Review

A twelve-page final review gives practice in all 12 reading strategies. Students read four longer passages and answer 48 selected-response questions that focus on all the reading strategies in the book.



# What is the reading level of the passages in the *STARS*® student book?

The reading passages in each *STARS*® student book lesson are at or below reading grade level, as determined by Flesch-Kincaid Readability Statistics. For example, no passage in Book H (grade 8) is above a reading level of 8.9.



# What is in the STARS® teacher guide?

### Overview

Information about using the *CARS*® and *STARS*® *Series* and the Curriculum Associates Classroom Reading System, including:

- Suggested Pacing Chart
- Features of a STARS® Lesson
- Research Summary
- Reproducible Strategy Bookmarks

# Lesson Plans

Six-page guides for each *STARS*® student-book lesson, including a facsimile of each student-book page with correct answers, teacher tips, and these special features:

- ELL Support
- Genre Focus
- Teacher's Corner
- Reteaching
- Connecting with Literature

# Reproducible Answer Form

A reproducible bubble sheet that students may use to record their answers to Parts Two–Five of each lesson

# **Completed Answer Form**

A filled-in bubble sheet that may be used for correction purposes







# How can I provide differentiated instruction using the STARS® Series?

There are two easy ways to provide differentiated instruction in the classroom using the *STARS® Series*.

# By Reading Strategy

Use the results from the Pretest in the *CARS® Series* to diagnose the individual needs of the students in your classroom.

Then use *STARS® Book H* to provide targeted instruction in one specific strategy or in several strategies to remediate areas that need improvement and/or reinforcement.

Or, you may wish to provide instruction using the entire *STARS*® *Book H* to build students' basic knowledge of all the reading strategies.

# By Reading Level

Students in the same classroom are likely to be reading at different skill levels (below grade level, at grade level, or above grade level). You can use the leveled books in the *STARS® Series* (Books K–H) to meet this need.

To enable this type of differentiated instruction, the sequence of the strategies and the page numbers across the books in the *STARS® Series* are the same from lesson to lesson (with some exceptions in Books K–C). So all students in the classroom receive the same reading-strategy instruction but work with appropriately leveled reading passages.

For example, some eighth-grade students may work in the on-level Book H, which contains reading passages that don't extend beyond a eighth-grade reading level. At the same time, other students in the class may be assigned an above-level book, while other students may be assigned a below-level book.



# How can I assess students' progress in the STARS® Series?

After students have been placed into the *STARS® Series*, based on the diagnosis from the *CARS®* Pretest, several methods may be used to assess students' progress in the *STARS® Series*.

You may use classroom observation to monitor and informally assess students' mastery of the strategies taught in each *STARS*<sup>®</sup> lesson.

You may also use the following to formally assess students' mastery of the strategies:

# STARS® Review Lessons

A review lesson follows every three strategy lessons. Each review lesson may be used to assess students' mastery of one, two, or all three of the strategies covered in the review.

# STARS® Final Review

The final review may be used upon completion of the strategy lessons to assess students' mastery of all 12 reading strategies.

# CARS® Benchmarks

These five tests may be used throughout instruction in the *STARS*® student book (after the *CARS*® Pretest and before the *CARS*® Post Test) as individual progress-monitoring tools to monitor students' progress in applying all 12 reading strategies. You may space out the Benchmarks to best meet your classroom needs.

### CARS® Post Test

The Post Test may be used upon completion of the *STARS*® strategy lessons to assess students' overall mastery of all 12 reading strategies. The results of the *CARS*® Post Test may be compared with the results of the *CARS*® Pretest to assess students' mastery of the reading strategies.







# What instructional features in the *STARS® Series* can be helpful for students, especially ELL students?

The *STARS® Series* uses several effective instructional procedures that support all students, including:

- Opportunities to activate prior knowledge before beginning strategy instruction
- Explicit instruction in key English language concepts
- A step-by-step scaffolded approach, beginning with explicit instruction, to build a clear understanding of the reading strategies
- Opportunities to build and reinforce self-esteem
- Use of graphic organizers to visually depict the reading strategies
- Frequent reviews and restatements of concepts
- Allowances for students to work at their own pace
- Ample practice through a variety of high-interest reading passages
- Presentation of selections depicting real-life situations
- Encouragement of paired-learning experiences
- Student discussion of strategies to demonstrate conceptual understanding

In addition to these supports, the teacher guide also provides minilessons on English language topics that may be challenging for ELL students (called ELL Support). See pages 12–13 of this teacher guide for an example.



# Where do students record their answers?

Students may record their answers to Part One on a separate piece of paper or directly in their student book. The answers to Part One are discussed during partner or all-class discussions. Students may record their answers to Parts Two–Five on the reproducible Answer Form (on pages 106 and 107 of this teacher guide) or directly in the student book.



# What is the correction procedure?

For best results, correct each part of the strategy lesson orally with students immediately following its completion. Explain concepts that students do not understand. Encourage students to participate in a discussion about the targeted strategy and how to apply it in everyday life experiences.



# What are the Strategy Bookmarks?

The Strategy Bookmarks are a set of reproducible bookmarks for each of the strategies taught in the *STARS® Series*. You may wish to distribute the appropriate bookmark after students have completed each strategy lesson. The bookmarks serve as a helpful reminder, highlighting the essential points about the strategy that students have learned in the lesson.

Suggest that students use the bookmarks to support their application of the strategy to grade-level text, especially when completing the Connecting with Literature activity (see pages 22–23 for an example of this feature).



# How much time is required to complete the CARS® and STARS® Series?

The *CARS*<sup>®</sup> and *STARS*<sup>®</sup> *Series* are designed for flexibility in the classroom and can be used effectively in several ways to fulfill your classroom needs.

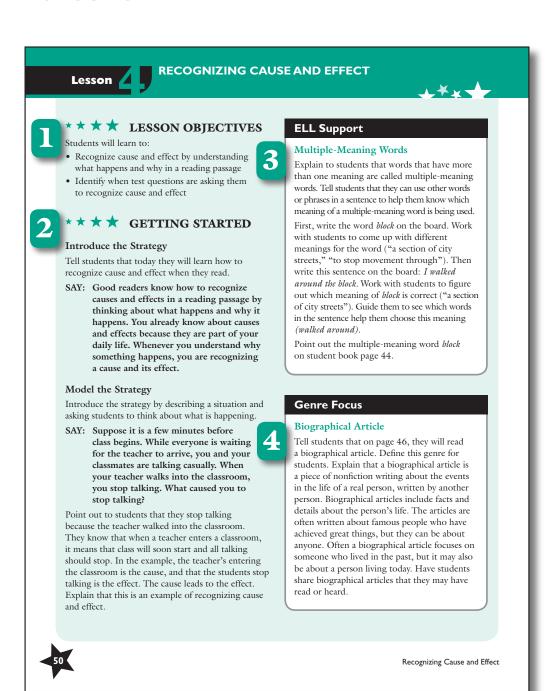
The Suggested Pacing Chart on page 9 reflects the use of the *CARS*® Pretest, Benchmarks, and Post Test as well as the 12 *STARS*® strategy lessons, the review lessons, and the final review. You can adapt the Suggested Pacing Chart as needed to accommodate the actual number of strategy lessons you instruct. Which lessons you teach and how you choose to allocate the times are up to you, depending on the needs of your students.



# Features of a STARS® Lesson

This 12-page section guides teachers through a sample lesson plan from the teacher guide. Each lesson plan contains facsimiles of the student-book lesson. Numbered boxes call out and describe the key features in both the teacher guide and the student book.

# INTRODUCTION







- **Lesson Objectives:** Presents two strategy-related goals for students to achieve as they complete the lesson.
- **Getting Started:** Introduces the strategy to students and models how good readers use the strategy when reading.
  - Scripted text provides a model for using the strategy in a real-world scenario to tap students' background knowledge.
  - A familiar context builds students' confidence for interacting with the strategy.
- **ELL Support:** Targets a language concept that students may need reinforcement with.
  - The language concept is briefly defined. The teacher then guides students through examples and tells them where they will encounter the concept in the upcoming lesson.
  - Language concepts in the series include:
    - ★ compound words
    - **★** prefixes
    - **★** suffixes
    - **★** contractions
    - **★** homophones
- **★** possessives
- ★ multiple-meaning words
- ★ regular and irregular plurals
- ★ regular and irregular past tense verbs
- ★ comparatives and superlatives
- **Genre Focus:** Previews key characteristics of a specific genre.
- Understanding a genre can aid students' comprehension of a reading passage.
- Genres in the series include:
  - ★ biography
  - ★ journal entry
  - **★** myth
  - ★ fable
  - ★ science fiction
  - ★ poem

- **★** folktale
- ★ letter to the editor
- ★ e-mail
- ★ blog
- ★ science report
- ★ history article

# **Management Tips**

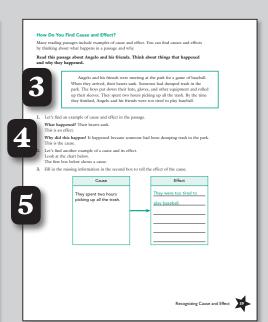
- Where possible throughout the lesson, use visuals. For example, write the target strategy on chart paper for easy reference.
- Use the scripted text to help students see how they already use the strategy in their everyday lives.
- To aid ELL students, use explicit instruction, and allow time to practice new concepts. Observe students closely to make sure they understand the concepts. Whenever possible, "show" the concepts through modeling, pantomime, and visual examples.
- Point out examples of the featured language concept in other classroom work.
- Share classroom books that showcase the featured genre.





# **PART ONE**

# Modeled Instruction Lesson RECOGNIZING CAUSE AND EFFECT PART ONE: Think About the Strategy What is Cause and Effect? There is a reason for everything that happens. What happens is called the effect. Why it happens is called the easer. You can find examples of causes and their effects liamous anywhere. 1 Write what would probably happens if a plant didn't get enough sunlight. Sample response: It probably wouldn't grow well, and it might die. 2 Tell why this might happens. Sample response: Flants need enough sunlight in order to grow. Sample response: Flants need enough sunlight in order to grow. Work with a Partner 1 Take turns giving each other examples of cause and effect. 1 Yas might say! Couldn't play soccer on Sarantay because it raised.\* 1 In each example, fell which part is the cause and which part is the effect.



AT A GLANCE

Students activate their background knowledge about recognizing cause and effect and then learn how to apply this strategy to a short reading passage.

# STEP BY STEP

### Page 38

- Tell students that today they will practice recognizing cause and effect.
- Read aloud the information at the top of the page.
- Direct students to respond to items 1 and 2.
- · Discuss student responses as a class.

### Work with a Partner

- Organize students to work in pairs to complete the Work with a Partner activity.
- Encourage volunteers to share their causes and effects with the class.

**Tip:** If students have difficulty thinking of causes and effects, have them think about an action they took as the direct result of something else. For example, have they ever gone to bed because they felt tired?

Recognizing Cause and Effect

### Page 39

- Read aloud the information that precedes the reading passage.
- Direct students to read the passage in the box.
- Tell students that after they read the passage, they will use a graphic organizer to help them recognize cause and effect in the passage.
- Guide students through steps 1–3 for completing the graphic organizer by having them follow along as you read the steps aloud.
- Direct students to complete the information in the second box of the graphic organizer.
- Discuss student responses.
- Be sure students have a clear understanding of how to find cause and effect in the passage.

**Tip:** If students are having trouble completing the second box, have them find the part of the passage that says that Angelo and his friends spent two hours picking up all the trash. It is in the fifth sentence. What happened as a result of this? Have them look in the last sentence, which tells the effect.







# **Student Book**

- **Introduction:** Describes the strategy. Open-ended questions prompt students to explore what they already know about the strategy from their daily lives.
- Work with a Partner: Gives student partners the opportunity to discuss ways to use the strategy.
- **Reading Passage:** Provides the opportunity for students to work with the strategy in the context of real-world reading.
- **Steps:** Guides students through completing the strategy-based graphic organizer.
- **Graphic Organizer:** Visually depicts how to apply the strategy.

# **Teacher Guide**

- **At a Glance:** Provides a brief overview of what students do in each lesson part.
- **Step by Step:** Provides an explicit walk-through of the steps for guiding students through each lesson part.
- **Tip:** Provides additional information for the teacher to assist student partners as they discuss the strategy in the Work with a Partner activity.
- **Tip:** Provides additional information for the teacher to assist students as they complete the strategy-based graphic organizer.

# Modeled Instruction

# Teacher Led

After prompting students to tap into their prior knowledge, the teacher uses step-by-step examples to model how to use the strategy, with the support of a strategy-based graphic organizer.

# **Management Tips**

- Personalize examples so they make sense for your students.
   Draw on your own experiences and your knowledge of your students to make sure examples are relevant.
- Plan carefully when grouping students for the Work with a Partner activity.
   Consider skill levels, social skills, and English language proficiency.
- Circulate and provide tips or encouragement as student pairs work together.



# **Research Summary**

The *STARS*® *Series* is an instructional program that is solidly grounded in areas of important reading research. Scaffolded strategy-based instruction serves as the organizational framework, while metacognitive strategies foster student self-monitoring and self-assessment. The lessons are carefully planned and sequenced to promote individual understanding and application of reading strategies. With the *STARS*® *Series*, students build on

their capacity to analyze, reason, and communicate ideas effectively by applying specified reading strategies in a variety of contexts. The *STARS® Series* is a comprehensive reading program designed to meet a broad spectrum of individual needs in the classroom. The full research report for this title may be downloaded from the Research Internet page at http://www.casamples.com/downloads/STARS-research.pdf.

This series uses	Example	Research says
Answer Analysis for Students As a part of guided instruction, students receive immediate feedback about their answer choices and read the reasoning behind correct and incorrect answers.	<ul> <li>SB: Books K and AA</li> <li>Included in teacher and student discussions</li> <li>SB: Books A–H</li> <li>In each lesson, Part Three: Check Your Understanding</li> </ul>	Research (Pashler et al, 2007) has shown that when students receive direct instruction about the reasons why an answer is correct or incorrect, they demonstrate long-term retention and understanding of newly learned content.
Cooperative Learning Students work together in pairs or small groups to attain their individual goals.	SB: Books AA–H  In each lesson, Work with a Partner feature	"Having peers instruct or interact over the use of reading strategies leads to an increase in the learning of the strategies, promotes intellectual discussion and increases reading comprehension" (NICHD, 2000, pp. 4–45).
Differentiated Instruction Students of varying abilities learn the same content using different instructional approaches.	<ul> <li>SB: Books C–H</li> <li>In each lesson, Part One through Part Five, modeled, guided, and independent practice and instruction</li> <li>TG: Books AA–H</li> <li>In each lesson, Part One through Part Five, teachers are given paired and whole-group instruction options</li> </ul>	"'Multiple paths' does not mean that students are given free rein; it means that teachers must find that sweet spot between structure and choice that makes student learning possibleBy allowing options that accommodate different thinking patterns, teachers help all students not only achieve planned learning goals but also own these goals in a way that's all theirs" (Carolan & Guinn, 2007, p. 45).
Direct Instruction Lesson plans include explicit step-by- step instruction of reading and learning strategies as well as lesson objectives.	SB: Books AA–H  In each lesson, Part Two: Learn About the Strategy	"The research demonstrates that the type of questions, the detailed step-by-step breakdowns, and the extensive practice with a range of examples will significantly benefit students' comprehension" (Gersten & Carnine, 1986, p. 72).
ELL Accommodations English-language learners are a large part of today's classrooms. These students need extra support and scaffolding while learning new information.  Some teaching strategies that have been proven to be effective for ELL students are: graphic organizers, explicit instruction, scaffolded instruction, shared reading, and theme-based instruction.	<ul> <li>SB: Books A–H</li> <li>In each lesson, graphic organizers, explicit instruction, scaffolded instruction, shared reading, and themebased reading passages are key ELL instructional accommodations.</li> <li>TG: Books A–H</li> <li>See section entitled, "What instructional features in the STARS® Series can be helpful for students, especially ELL students?"</li> <li>Introduction, ELL Support</li> </ul>	"In virtually every part of the country, middle and high schools are now seeing expanding enrollments of students whose primary language is not English. Rising numbers of immigrants, other demographic trends, and the demands of an increasingly global economy make it clear that the nation can no longer afford to ignore the pressing needs of the ELLs in its middle and high schools who are struggling with reading, writing, and oral discourse in a new language" (Short & Fitzsimmons, 2007).





This series uses	Example	Research says
Explicit Instruction Students receive explicit instruction of each reading strategy consisting of a definition, a short example passage, and learning objectives.	SB: Books AA–H  In each lesson, Part Two: Learn About the Strategy	Researchers Manset-Williamson and Nelson (2005) explain, "explicit instruction involves the overt, teacher-directed instruction of strategies, including direct explanation, modeling, and guided practice in the application of strategies" (p. 62).
Genre Instruction Students receive instruction of genre properties of reading passages which aids in both their recall and comprehension of the passages.	TG: Books C–H  • In each lesson, Introduction, Genre Focus	"The instruction of the content and organization of stories thus improves comprehension of stories as measured by the ability of the reader to answer questions and recall what was read. This improvement is more marked for less able readers" (NICHD, 2000, pp. 4–45).
Graphic Organizers Graphic organizers are visual displays that help learners comprehend and retain textually important information.	SB: Books AA–H  In each lesson, Part One: Think About the Strategy  TG: Books K and AA  Refer to Part One: Skill Development section  In each lesson, Part Four: Build on What You Have Learned, Reteaching feature	"When students learn how to use and construct graphic organizers, they are in control of a study strategy that allows them to identify what parts of a text are important, how the ideas and concepts are related, and where they can find specific information to support more important ideas" (Vacca & Vacca, 2005, p. 399).
Listening Comprehension Development and mastery of listening comprehension on the meaning level is one of the first stepping stones in learning how to read.	<ul> <li>Series:</li> <li>Book K uses listening activities and a selected few reading activities to teach reading strategies.</li> <li>Books AA–H use both listening and reading activities, including the "shared reading" strategy to teach reading strategies.</li> </ul>	"Teachers should emphasize text comprehension from the beginning, rather than waiting until students have mastered "the basics" of reading. Instruction at all grade levels can benefit from showing students how reading is a process of making sense out of text, or constructing meaning" (Armbruster & Lehr, 2001).
Multiple-Strategy Instruction Students are taught that more than one cognitive strategy may be used to gain meaning from text. Strategies such as comparing and contrasting and making predictions work together to make text meaningful.	SB: Books C–H  • After every third lesson, and at the end of each book, Review and Final Review sections	"Skilled reading involves the coordinated use of several cognitive strategies. Readers can learn and flexibly coordinate these strategies to construct meaning from text" (NICHD, 2000, pp. 4–77).
Prior-knowledge Activation These are learning activities that stimulate knowledge that comes from previous experiences.	<ul> <li>SB: Books AA–H</li> <li>In each lesson, Part One: Think About the Strategy</li> <li>TG: Book K</li> <li>In Part One: Skill Development section</li> <li>Lesson Opener, Getting Started section</li> </ul>	"Several meta-analyses and reviews of the research have found that direct, explicit instruction in such specific strategies as summarizing, identifying text structure and visual clues, calling on prior knowledge, and using graphic organizers improves students' reading comprehension" (Biancarosa, 2005).





This series uses	Example	Research says
Reading-Strategy Instruction Explicit and direct instruction of each core reading strategy occurs in order to gain meaning from text.	<ul> <li>Series:</li> <li>Books K and AA introduce 6 core reading strategies.</li> <li>Book A introduces 8 core reading strategies.</li> <li>Books B–H introduce 12 core reading strategies.</li> <li>TG:</li> <li>Understanding the Strategies</li> <li>Teacher's Corner</li> </ul>	Afflerbach, Pearson, & Paris, (2008) explain that reading strategies are "deliberate, goal-directed attempts to control and modify the reader's efforts to decode texts, understand words, and construct meanings" (p. 368).
Scaffolded Instruction An instructional strategy in which gradual withdrawal of support occurs through modeled, guided, and independent instruction and practice.	<ul> <li>SB: Books AA–H</li> <li>Part One: Think About the Strategy (Modeled Instruction)</li> <li>Part Two: Learn About the Strategy (Guided Instruction)</li> <li>Part Three: Check Your Understanding (Modeled Practice)</li> <li>Part Four: Build on What You Have Learned (Guided Practice)</li> <li>Part Five: Prepare for a Test (Independent Practice)</li> </ul>	"There is virtually universal agreement that scaffolding plays an essential and vital role in fostering comprehension" (Clark & Graves, 2005).
Shared Reading This is a reading activity where a teacher reads a story while students look at the text being read and follow along.	<ul> <li>Series:</li> <li>Book K has several activities where students read silently as the teacher reads orally.</li> <li>Book AA uses shared reading as one of its core teaching strategies.</li> </ul>	Routman (2000) lists several benefits of shared reading, especially for ELL students. Shared reading teaches multiple reading strategies; provides supportive context for reading; and helps children participate as readers (p. 34).
Test-taking Practice Selected-response and constructed- response test questions are often used on state and national standardized tests.	<ul> <li>SB:</li> <li>Books A-H, in each lesson, Part Five: Prepare for a Test</li> <li>Books A-H, Review and Final Reviews</li> </ul>	Supon (2004) cites that researchers have determined that "Students of all levels of academic achievement and intellectual abilities can be affected by test anxiety."
Theme-based Instruction Theme-based instruction integrates instruction of language and concepts with real-world scenarios and with cross-curricular subjects, such as social studies, science, and literature.	<ul> <li>SB:</li> <li>In each lesson, the reading passages have social studies, science, or literary themes.</li> <li>TG:</li> <li>Books K-H, Introduction Books A-H, Genre Focus</li> <li>Books K-H, Connecting with Literature</li> </ul>	Bergeron, Wermuth, and Rudenga (1996) summarized that theme-based, integrated learning experiences engage young children in meaningful and functional literacy events, focus on real-life experiences by providing socially interactive settings, and provide an organizational framework for language acquisition."



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# DRAWING CONCLUSIONS AND MAKING INFERENCES







# **★★★★** LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will learn to:

- Draw conclusions and make inferences about a reading passage by using details along with their background knowledge
- Identify when test questions are asking them to draw conclusions and make inferences



# **★★★★** GETTING STARTED

# Introduce the Strategy

Tell students that today they will learn how to draw conclusions and make inferences when they read.

SAY: Good readers draw conclusions and make inferences by using what they read, along with their own background knowledge, to figure out something that is suggested but not directly stated in a reading passage. You already know how to draw conclusions and make inferences because you often figure out things on your own in your daily life.

# Model the Strategy

Introduce the strategy by describing a situation and asking students to think about what is happening.

SAY: Suppose you introduce a new person to your friend. You wonder if your friend likes the new person. The next day, you see your friend and the new person sitting together at lunch and chatting. Do you think your friend likes the new person?

Point out to students that they can conclude that their friend likes the new person. They know that people who enjoy each other's company like to eat lunch together and chat. Since the new person and their friend are eating lunch together and chatting, it is reasonable to assume that their friend likes the new person. Explain that this is an example of drawing a conclusion.

# **ELL Support**

# Homophones

Explain to students that homophones are two words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings.

Say the word *hour* to students. Some students may hear our. Work with students to come up with a definition for the word they heard. As students give a definition, write it on the board. Then, next to the definition, write the word. For example, if students say "sixty minutes," write hour. Repeat for the other word (our: "belonging to us"). Explain that both words sound alike, but have different meanings.

Point out to students the homophones for and four on student book page 85. Pronounce the two words and discuss their meanings.

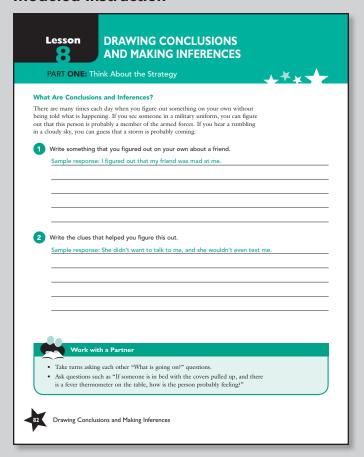
# **Genre Focus**

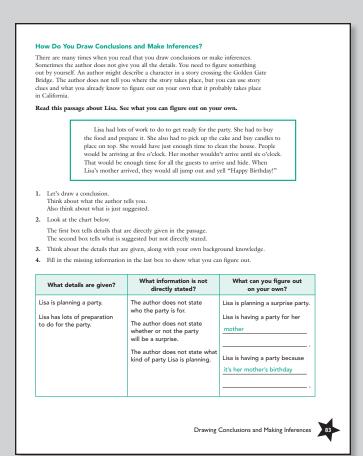
# Novel

Tell students that on page 86, they will read the introduction to a novel. Define this genre for students, after pointing out that an introduction is a beginning. Say that a novel is a long fiction story. Like other fiction stories, novels have a setting, a plot, a main character, and secondary characters. Novels include lengthy descriptions of characters, places, and events. In a novel, the nature of the characters is revealed through their speech, actions, and thoughts—as well as through the ways in which other characters act toward them. Novels are often realistic, including believable events and characters. Some novels are based on real people, places, events, or eras. Have students share novels that they may have read or heard.



### **Modeled Instruction**





# AT A GLANCE

Students activate their background knowledge about drawing conclusions and making inferences and then learn how to apply this strategy to a short reading passage.

# **STEP BY STEP**

# Page 82

- Tell students that today they will practice drawing conclusions and making inferences.
- Read aloud the information at the top of the page.
- Direct students to respond to items 1 and 2.
- Discuss student responses as a class.

# Work with a Partner

- Organize students to work in pairs to complete the Work with a Partner activity.
- Encourage volunteers to share their questions and answers with the class.

**Tip:** If students give a wild guess instead of a probable conclusion, ask about sense. For example, if there is a fever thermometer out, does the person probably feel good?

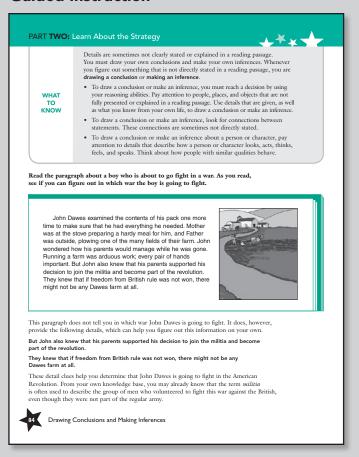
# Page 83

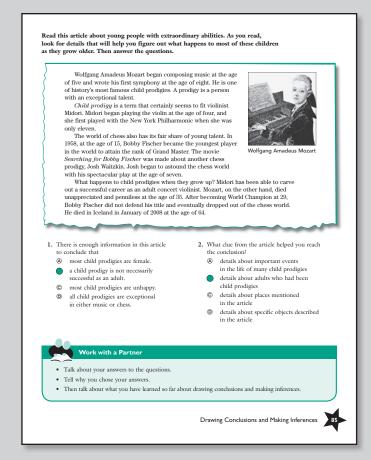
- Read aloud the information that precedes the reading passage.
- Direct students to read the passage in the box.
- Tell students that after they read the passage, they will use a graphic organizer to help them draw a conclusion using details in the story.
- Guide students through steps 1–4 for completing the graphic organizer by having them follow along as you read the steps aloud.
- Direct students to complete the information in the third box of the graphic organizer, stating the conclusions.
- Discuss student responses.
- Be sure students have a clear understanding of how details stated in the story helped them figure out information not directly stated in the story.

**Tip:** If students are having trouble completing the third box, guided them to combine the detail clues with their own knowledge. If people yell, "Happy Birthday," it's probably a birthday party. The party was for Lisa's mother, so it was probably her birthday.

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

# **Guided Instruction**





# AT A GLANCE

Students learn how to draw conclusions and make inferences when they read. Students then practice the strategy by using text clues to answer questions about a passage.

# **STEP BY STEP**

# Page 84

- Introduce the lesson by reading aloud the information in the What to Know box.
- Tell students that together you will read a passage and talk about how good readers can figure out information that is not directly stated in the text.
- Have a student volunteer read aloud the paragraph.
- Direct students to follow along as you read the information under the paragraph.
- Direct students to underline the two details in the paragraph.
- Conclude the lesson by reviewing the concepts in the What to Know box.

# Page 85

- Direct students to read the passage and answer the questions. Guide students as needed.
- Organize students to work in pairs to complete the Work with a Partner activity.
- When students have finished working in pairs, discuss the answers as a class.

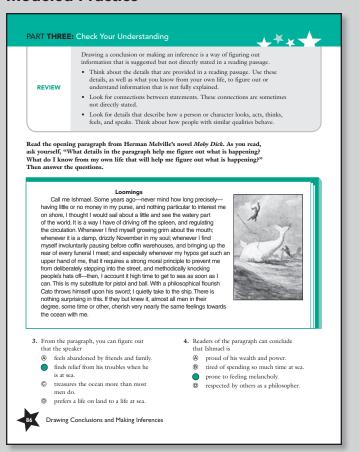
**Tip:** Have students underline the details in the passage that they used as clues to answer questions 1 and 2.

(all the details about adult child prodigies in the last paragraph)

**Tip:** Mention that the last paragraph gives examples of three different outcomes of child prodigies as adults: successful, not successful (at least at the time), and detached. The words *not necessarily successful* support the conclusion in answer choice B, the correct answer to question 1.



# **Modeled Practice**



### Which Answer Is Correct and Why?

Look at the answer choices for each question. Read why each answer choice is correct or not correct

- 3. From the paragraph, you can figure out that the speaker
- Teels abandoned by friends and family. This answer is not correct because there are no details in the paragraph that refer to friends or family. One could conclude that the speaker attended the funerals of friends; however, one could not draw the conclusion that he feels abandoned by friends and family from this detail.
- finds relief from his troubles when he is at sea.

This answer is correct because several details in the paragraph support this conclusion. "Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth . . . then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can" and "This is my substitute for pistol and ball."

© treasures the ocean more than most men do.

This answer is not correct because the last sentence in the paragraph states that "...almost all men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same fedings towards the ocean with me." The reader can conclude that the speaker believes that most men probably feel the same way about the ocean as he does.

prefers a life on land to a life at sea. This answer is not correct because most details in the paragraph suggest that the sea is where the speaker feels the most at peace. These details also suggest that he can stay on land only for so long before feeling the need to escape to the sea.

- 4. Readers of the paragraph can conclude that Ishmael is
- proud of his wealth and power.
  This answer is not correct because the first sentence of the paragraph suggests that there was a time when the speaker had little money: "Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money in my purse..." There are no other details to suggest that the speaker has since become wealthy or powerful.
- Itired of spending so much time at sea. This answer is not correct because most of the details in the paragraph point to the fact that it is at sea where the speaker finds the most peace. Also, the last sentence states that he cherishes the ocean. Therefore, one could not conclude that he was tired of spending so much time at sea.
- prone to feeling melancholy.
  This answer is correct because most of the details in the paragraph describe grim feelings which the speaker feels the need to break away from. The speaker uses these details to describe why he prefers his time at sea to his time on land.
- Tespected by others as a philosopher. This answer is not correct because there are no details in the paragraph to suggest that the speaker is considered a philosopher or a great thinker by others.

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences 87



# AT A GLANCE

Students reinforce their understanding of strategy concepts through reading a passage, answering questions, and discussing why answers are correct or not correct.

# STEP BY STEP

# Page 86

- Read aloud the information in the Review box.
- Direct students to read the passage and answer the questions on the page.
- Remind students to use the information in the Review box to help them.

# Page 87

- Tell students that this page models how to find the correct answers and explains why each one is correct.
- Share the correct answers.
- Read aloud the explanations for all the answer choices for questions 3 and 4. Solicit questions and comments from the class.

**Tip:** In question 4 students use their understanding of what melancholy means (sad, depressed, gloomy) along with the descriptive details about the speaker, to figure out that the speaker is prone to feeling melancholy.



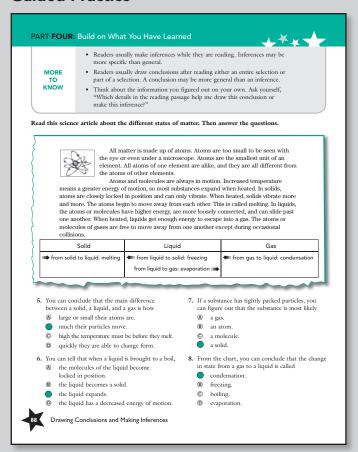
# Teacher's Corner

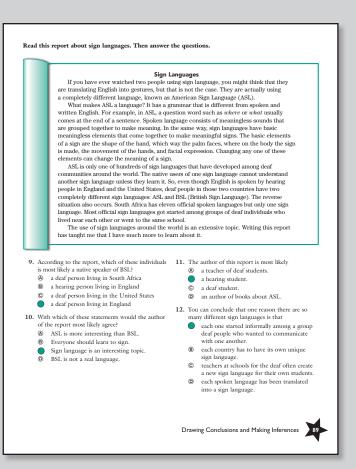
Readers can draw conclusions and make inferences about characters from illustrations in a passage that has scanty dialogue or description, such as a cartoon. If the text isn't clear about how a character is feeling, an illustration can elicit this. For example, if an illustration shows a character with steam rising from his head, one can infer that he is probably angry. If a character has Zs over her head, she is probably sleeping.

One way readers can think about conclusions and inferences is that a conclusion is a big idea generated by synthesizing related smaller ideas; inferences are smaller ideas generated by analyzing a bigger idea.



# **Guided Practice**





# AT A GLANCE

Students are introduced to additional information about drawing conclusions and making inferences, and then they answer questions about two passages.

# **STEP BY STEP**

# Pages 88-89

- Read aloud the information in the More to Know box.
- As needed, guide students as they complete both pages.
- Discuss the correct responses as a class.

**Tip:** Ask students to identify sentences or information in the passages that helped them answer each question:

- 5: "In solids . . . occasional collisions."
- 6: "Increased temperature . . . when heated." "When heated, liquids . . . into a gas."
- 7: "In solids, atoms are closely locked . . . only vibrate."
- 8: information in the last column of the chart
- 9: "So, even though English is spoken . . . and BSL (British Sign Language)."
- 10: "The use of sign languages. . . learn about it."

11: "Writing this report . . . learn about it."

12: "ASL is only one . . . around the world."



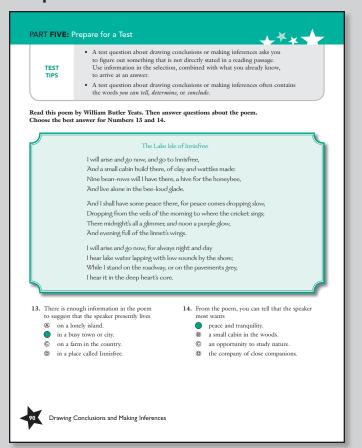
# Reteaching

Use a graphic organizer to verify the correct answer to question 9. Draw the graphic organizer below, leaving the boxes blank. Work with students to fill in the missing information, using details from the passage. Sample responses are provided.

What details are given?	What information is not directly stated	What can you figure out on your own?
There are many different sign languages around the world.	The author does not directly state why there are so many different sign languages.	People in the same community or school want to communicate with each other.
Most sign languages started among groups of deaf individuals who lived near each other or went to the same school.		Deaf individuals in the same community or school would create their own sign language to be able to communicate with each other.



# **Independent Practice**



Read this article about a successful singer and her connection to a noted author. Then answer questions about the article. Choose the best answer for Numbers 15 and 16. Singer-songwriter Lauryn Hill launched her solo career with the album *The Miseducatio* of Lauryn Hill, which debuted at number one on the Billboard pop chart. Hill said she had wanted to make an album that had "... the roots, the integrity, and the sound of an old wanted to make an ainum that had '... the roots, the integrity, and the sound of an old record." These qualities were expressed in the album's music, as well as its title. The title The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill recalls a book written in 1933 by noted African American historian and educator Carter G. Woodson. In his book The Miseducation of the Negro, Woodson wrote about the American education system. He felt that African American children did not receive proper instruction. Woodson saw no black faces in the textbooks of his time. He observed that teachers seldom mentioned Africa or the achievements of black Americans.

Carter Woodson was born in 1875. Both of his parents were freed slaves. Although they themselves could not read, Woodson's parents stressed the importance of education. Woodson's parents stressed the importance of education. Despite having his schooling delayed by the necessity of work, Woodson went on to college. He eventually received his doctorate in history from Harvard University in 1912. Lauryn Hill is not the only one to have honored Carter Woodson. Every February, when we observe Black History Month, we also celebrate Woodson's legacy. Woodson worked hard to establish Negro History Week, the forerunner to Black History Month. Woodson wanted to remind all students of the role played by black Americans throughout the history of America 15. You can tell that Lauryn Hill 16. Readers of the article can conclude  $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bullet \\ \hline \end{table} \begin{tabular}{ll} \bullet \\ \hline \end{tabular} \begin$  was the most notable author of his time ® did not support many of Carter Woodson's ® never received a high-school diploma. was familiar with Carter Woodson's book before she made her album. struggled to achieve a high level of education. would not appreciate his ideas being expressed in music. n consulted with Carter Woodson on her album.

# AT A GLANCE

Students practice answering questions about drawing conclusions and making inferences that might appear on a reading test.

# **STEP BY STEP**

# Pages 90-91

- Point out the Test Tips to students and explain that these tips will help them answer test questions.
- Tell students to read and complete pages 90 and 91.
- Discuss the correct responses as a class.



# **Connecting with Literature**

Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences 91

As students read books they self-select from the classroom or school library, encourage them to draw conclusions and make inferences about information the author merely suggests. Invite them to choose a favorite book and present a brief Book Share. Have students read a page or a selection from the book and tell how they used text details and their own knowledge to figure out information that is merely suggested in the text. Ask about specific inferences. Did they infer a setting or a character's feelings? How?

