

A Science-Based Approach to Literacy

Arts & Letters + Geodes + Really Great Reading = Proficient Readers, Writers, Speakers, and Listeners



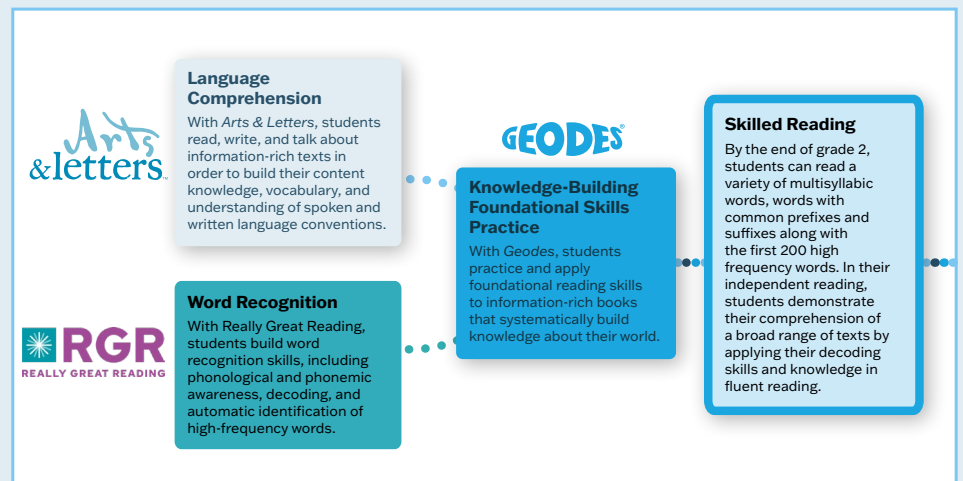
As one of the most complex things that we do on a regular basis, skilled reading requires fluent and coordinated execution of word recognition and language comprehension. Research indicates that students develop these abilities most effectively through explicit and systematic instruction in foundational skills, complemented by coherent, rigorous, and content-rich texts.

This is why more and more schools are pairing Really Great Reading®, a foundational reading skills program, with Arts & Letters™ and Geodes®. These programs provide the high-quality instructional materials that meet teachers' expectations, fulfill children's educational needs, and are supported by research in the Science of Reading.

To align with Science of Reading research, classroom instruction needs to explicitly teach students how to decode words and make meaning of them. But emerging readers also need enriching reading experiences that provide ample practice in weaving these skills together in a coherent way—this is a key component of evidence-based reading instruction that is often overlooked, and that Geodes uniquely provide.

THREE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF RESEARCH-BASED LITERACY INSTRUCTION

Arts & Letters, Geodes, and Really Great Reading support evidence-based instruction, but investing in one without the others shortchanges students in their literacy development. Implementing all three of these elements provides a seamless and holistic learning experience for students in kindergarten through grade 3 by bringing the Science of Reading to life in every classroom.



Really Great Reading: State-of-the-Art Foundational Skills Development

Numerous studies confirm that systematic and explicit instruction in foundational skills is essential for students learning to read and write. The distinguishing feature of a research-based foundational skills program is its structured instruction, built around a clearly defined scope and sequence. This minimizes confusion and progressively enhances the complexity of students' literacy knowledge and skills.

Really Great Reading offers explicit, systematic, and multi-sensory instruction to help students build a strong foundation for decoding, setting them on the path to becoming confident and independent readers. The materials introduce concepts and skills in a cumulative fashion, both within and across grade levels, and offer multiple opportunities for students to practice and apply their emerging literacy skills, thereby building mastery.



Geodes: Knowledge-Building Foundational Skills Practice

Geodes are books for emerging and developing readers that systematically weave foundational skills practice together with fascinating content so students build fluency while they experience the delight of acquiring new knowledge.

Geodes provide access for all students: most books are 80% decodable or above, based on the scope and sequence of Really Great Reading. Additional scaffolding and explicit vocabulary instruction enable students to decode and comprehend higher-quality text than with typical decodable text. Geodes are also information-rich: the collection provides students with authentic and interesting reading experiences, with 192 unique titles organized into connected text sets and modules on science, history, and the arts.

Spanning Levels K–3, Geodes begin with Wordless Picture Books that give students an opportunity to tell a story based on a sequence of narrative illustrations. Next, Sound Search Books help students boost their letter-sound recognition skills by finding pictures associated with the sounds of a given letter. Students then begin to apply their phonetic knowledge as they touch and say words, and Duet Books allow for just the right amount of adult assistance as students read on their own for the first time. As students become independent readers, Geodes books gradually increase average sentence length to help them develop reading stamina and ultimately progress to reading chapter books so they continue to experience success and enjoy reading.



Arts & Letters: Core, Content-Rich ELA Curriculum

Arts & Letters is a comprehensive, standards-based English language arts curriculum. Developed by and for teachers, the Arts & Letters approach helps students build reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and language skills in the context of complex and information-rich texts.

Everything that happens in Arts & Letters classrooms starts with exceptional texts, because content is the core of ELA instruction. Instead of using basal readers, each Arts & Letters module centers on a carefully curated mix of literary, informational, and fine-art texts that build student knowledge around the module's topic of focus. Knowledge-building topics empower students to deepen their understanding of science, history, geography, and more as they master literacy skills.

With Arts & Letters, students engage in productive struggle and all learners are supported in tackling the rigor of grade-level content with confidence and joy. Approximately one-third of each module's lessons have a corresponding Prologue lesson—a pre-teaching companion to the core lesson that offers students with language needs additional support targeting vocabulary, syntax, and oral language practice.

This unique combination of resources helps K–3 students become proficient and confident readers, writers, speakers, and listeners—all while acquiring important knowledge of history, science, the arts, and other subjects that will help them succeed in school and in life.



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