

# *Read Side by Side* PROGRAM GUIDE, GRADES 3-6

2023 Edition



Motivate students to read widely,  
deeply, confidently, & daily.





***The best reading programs  
are built on a rich and full  
diet of books.***

Watch the **Program Overview**  
Video (17 min.)

[readsidebyside.com/overview-video](https://readsidebyside.com/overview-video)

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# What matters the most for middle-grade students?

## Motivation

As motivation increases, a child's ability and confidence as a reader also increases. A child who is motivated to read will read more deeply, widely, and more often. The *Read Side by Side Reading Program* attends to motivation through **high-interest novels** and nonfiction trade books.

## Explicit Instruction

Students learn to read strategically to monitor and fix-up comprehension in texts of increasing difficulty. **Scripted lessons** in the program value teacher autonomy and aid in keeping instruction explicit.

## Transfer of Training

It is not enough to teach strategies; they must be internalized and applied by the reader. A **three-part curriculum design** supports students as they move from modeling and guided practice in read-aloud, to independent practice in book clubs and independent reading.

## Knowledge

It is well founded that knowledge is the best predictor of reading comprehension. The *Read Side By Side Reading Program* carefully builds students' **vocabulary and world knowledge**. The sequence of books in each unit of study propels knowledge development, and adjunct non-fiction articles build knowledge further for students.

*The Read Side by Side Reading Program* provides a highly motivating curriculum design, tailored specifically to the needs of middle-grade students.



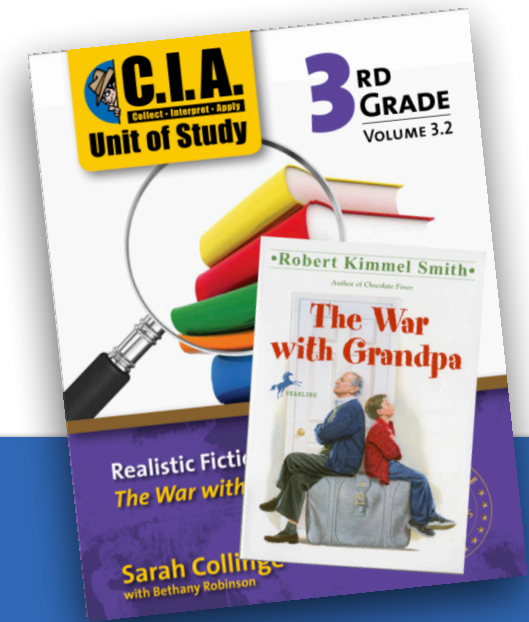
# Literacy Block

Students in grades 3-5 spend **90 minutes** a day reading and writing.

Students in grade 6 spend **45 minutes** a day reading and writing, alternating between read-aloud and book club across the year.

## 1 Read-Aloud

TEACH - MODEL - GUIDE - ASSESS



### 10 Minute Vocabulary Routine

Teaches word learning strategies: morphemes and context clues.

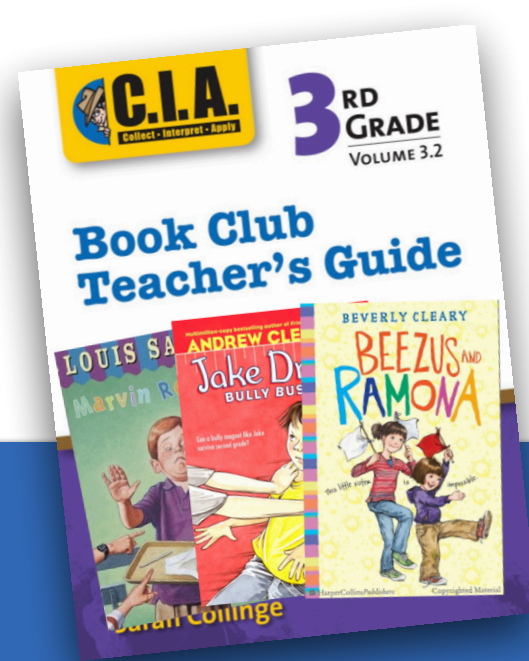
### 35 Minute Read-Aloud Lesson

Models metacognition, comprehension strategies and monitoring.  
Incorporates diverse media.

Engages students in discussion and writing about reading.

## 2 Book Club

RETEACH - PRACTICE - COLLABORATE - ASSESS



### 5 Minute Whole Class Lesson

Teaches the transfer of skill from read-aloud to book clubs.

### 40 Minute Work Time and Collaboration with Peers

Differentiates text and task demands.

Engages students in reading and writing.

Encourages discussion and response.



# 3 Extended Reading

IN CLASS - AT HOME

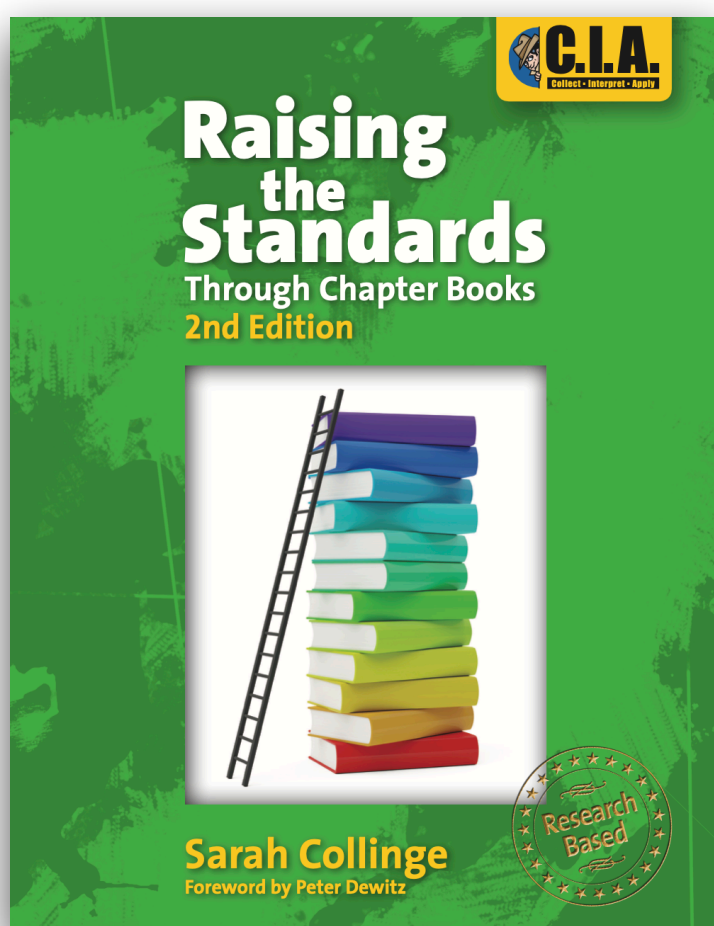


## High Interest Reading

Students select books from the classroom library book boxes to read in class or take home.

*Other home reading resources are available, including home reading kits, book bags, and summer school materials.*

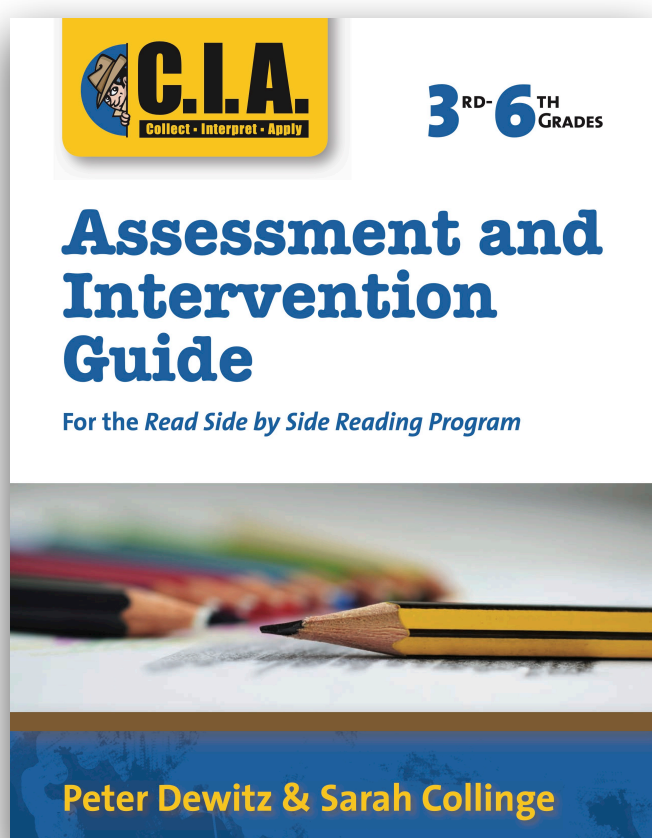
## Professional Development Tools



*Raising the Standards Through Chapter Books* prepares teachers implementing the collect-interpret-apply approach and the *Read Side by Side Reading Program*: read-aloud, book clubs, and extended reading.

A video book study guides teachers:

[Readsidebyside.com/raising-the-standards-study](https://Readsidebyside.com/raising-the-standards-study)



The *Assessment and Intervention Guide* provides strategies and tools to ensure all students succeed with the program, even those who struggle with reading.

Assessment tools can be downloaded from the classroom resource page:

[Readsidebyside.com/resources](https://Readsidebyside.com/resources).



# A Text-Structure Approach

## THE C. I. A. APPROACH

Students learn to **read like detectives** as they are given a step-by-step method for reading a chapter book or longer nonfiction. **Students learn how to read a book.**



1. **Divide** the number of pages in the book by four.
2. **Mark** the end of each quadrant by using sticky-notes.
3. **Read** using the **C. I. A. Approach** (Collect-Interpret-Apply)



### Collect

- Character
- Setting
- Problems
- Important Events



Retell Summary

1/4



### Interpret

- Key Repeated
  - Words
  - Phrases
- Author's Craft
- Author's Message/Theme



Line of Thinking

2/4



### Interpret

- Evidence
- Turning Point
- Author's Message/Theme



Turning Point Writing

3/4



### Apply

- Synthesize
- Evaluate



Synthesis Summary  
& Evaluation

4/4



Learn more about this innovative approach!

[Readsidebyside.com/cia-approach](https://Readsidebyside.com/cia-approach)



# Alignment to Standards

COMMON CORE (2010) & NEXT GENERATION (2017)

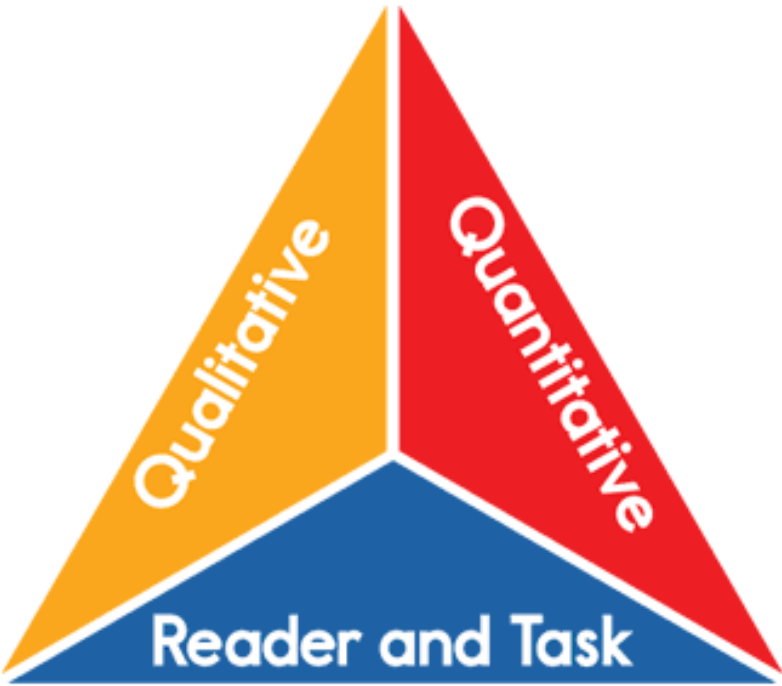
Students practice all anchor standards in every text.

The CIA Approach	Anchor Standards
Collect Critical Information	Key Ideas & Details Standards 1-3
Interpret the Text	Craft & Structure Standards 4-6
Apply to Your Life	Integration of Knowledge Standards 7-9

## Text Selection

The program prides itself in utilizing **authentic literature** students can find at the library or bookstore. Many of the books in the program are award winning—**rich in vocabulary**.

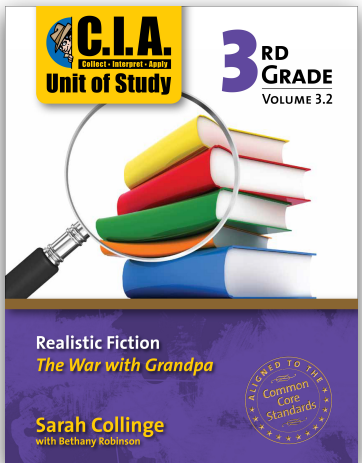
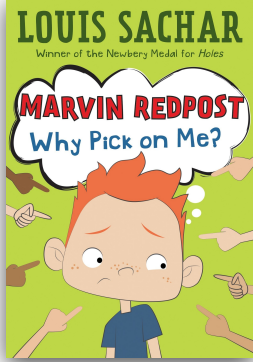
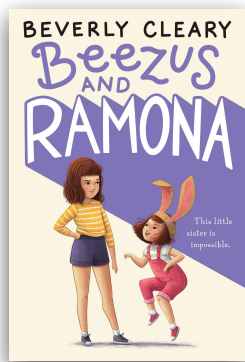
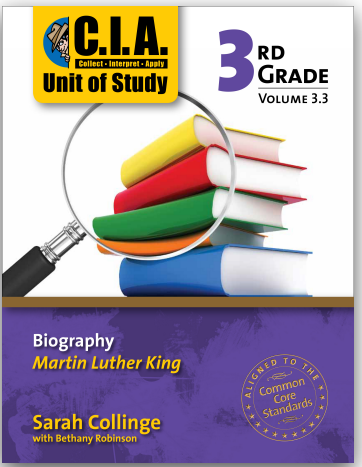
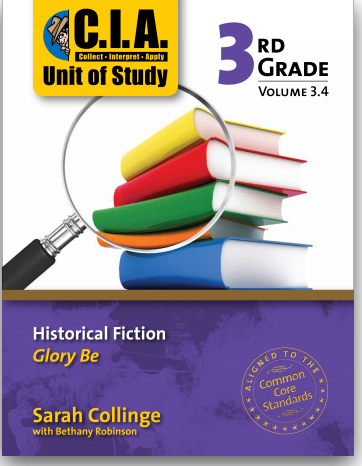
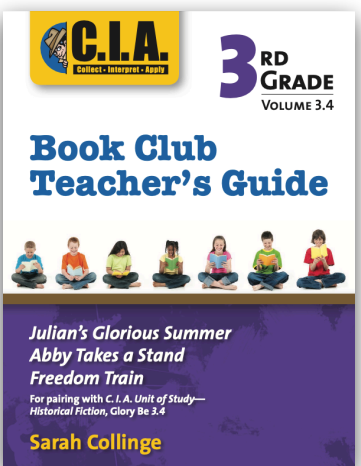
The **sequence of texts is intentional**, with one unit building the background knowledge for the next. Students make connections **within and across** texts and broaden their understanding of people and the world.



**Texts increase in complexity** as students progress across a school year, and across the 3-6 band. The **CCSS three-part model** is used to measure text complexity. Qualitative and reader and task demands trump the quantitative demand as appropriate.



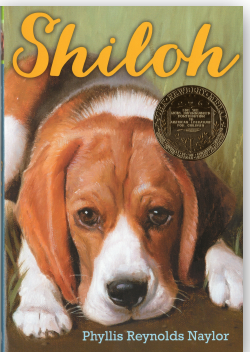
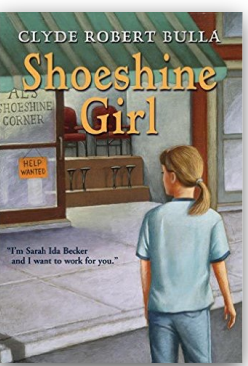
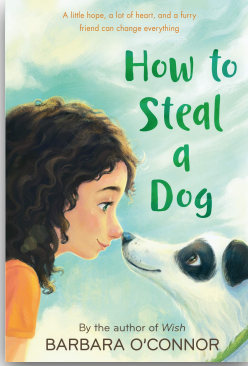
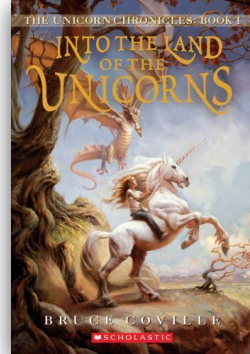
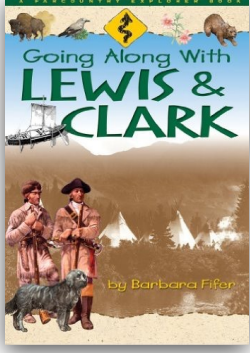

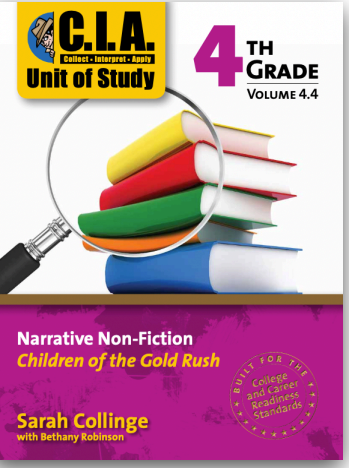
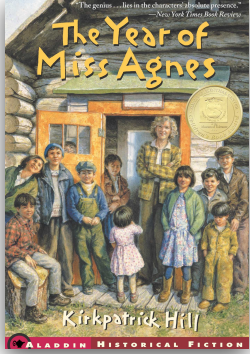
# 3rd Grade Reading Curriculum

	Read-Aloud Units of Study	Book Club Teacher's Guides	Book Boxes for Extended Reading
Unit 3.1	  <p>Poppy</p>		 <p>3.1 Book Box Set of 16 Titles</p>
Unit 3.2	  <p>The War with Grandpa</p>	  <p>Marvin Redpost Why Pick on Me?</p> <p>Jake Drake Bully Buster</p> <p>Beezus and Ramona</p>	 <p>3.2 Book Box Set of 16 Titles</p>
Unit 3.3	  <p>Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	  <p>I Am Rosa Parks</p> <p>Rosa Parks</p> <p>Who Was Rosa Parks?</p>	 <p>3.3 Book Box Set of 16 Titles</p>
Unit 3.4	  <p>Glory Be</p>	  <p>Julian's Glorious Summer</p> <p>Abby Takes a Stand</p> <p>Freedom Train</p>	 <p>3.4 Book Box Set of 16 Titles</p>
Unit 3.5	  <p>Maniac Magee</p>	  <p>Fudge-A-Mania</p> <p>Wall Ball</p> <p>Swindle</p>	 <p>3.5 Book Box Set of 16 Titles</p>

Third-grade students explore the topic of conflict—at home and school, in the community and world—and understand themes of the Civil Rights Movement.



# 4th Grade Reading Curriculum

Read-Aloud Units of Study		Book Club Teacher's Guides		Book Boxes for Extended Reading				
Unit 4.1		 Shiloh			 Shoeshine Girl	 Because of Winn-Dixie	 How to Steal A Dog	 4.1 Book Box Set of 16 Titles
		 The Castle in the Attic			 The Weeping Werewolf	 The Dragonslayers	 Into the Land of the Unicorns	 4.2 Book Box Set of 16 Titles
		 Streams to the River, River to the Sea			 Going Along With Lewis & Clark			 4.3 Book Box Set of 16 Titles
		 Children of the Gold Rush			 The Year of Miss Agnes	 Riding Freedom	 The Sign of the Beaver	 4.4 Book Box Set of 16 Titles
		 Aurore of the Yukon			 The Kids' Book of Canada's Railway			 4.5 Book Box Set of 16 Titles

Fourth-grade students explore the theme of a personal journey as they read about the Lewis and Clark expedition, westward expansion, and the Klondike gold rush.



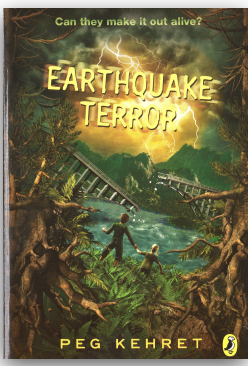
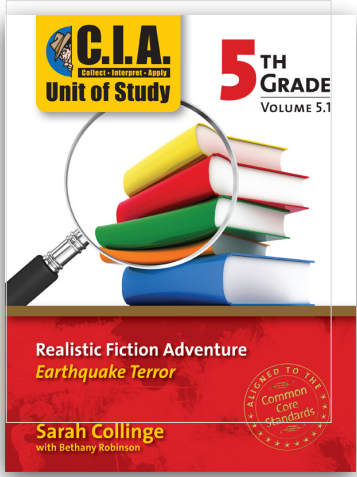
# 5th Grade Reading Curriculum

## Read-Aloud Units of Study

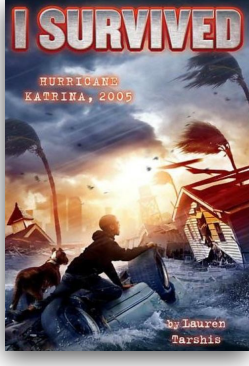
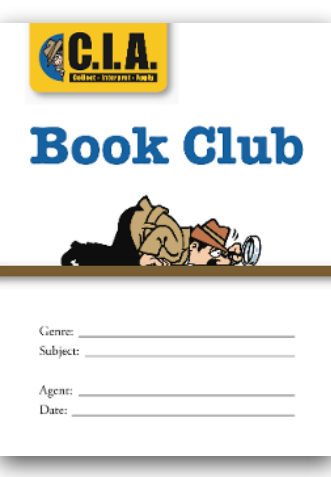
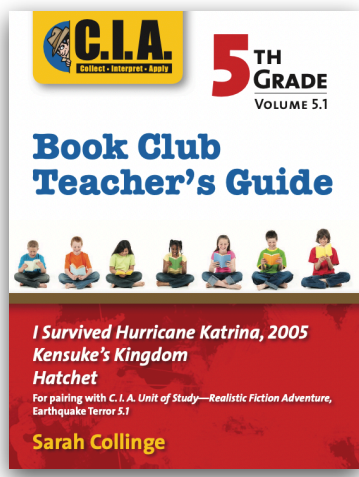
## Book Club Teacher's Guides

## Book Boxes for Extended Reading

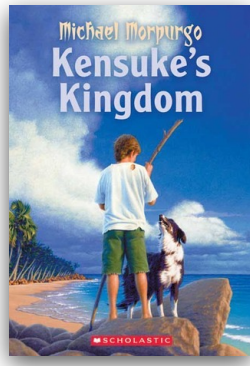
Unit  
5.1



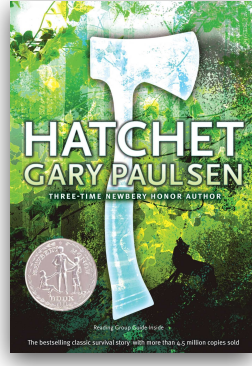
Earthquake  
Terror



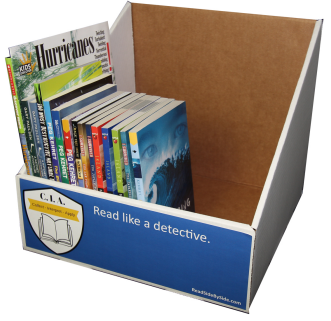
I Survived  
Hurricane Katrina



Kensuke's  
Kingdom

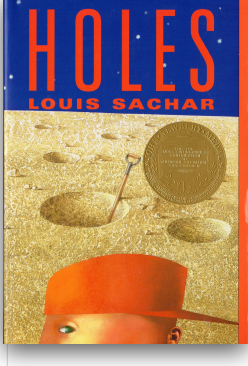
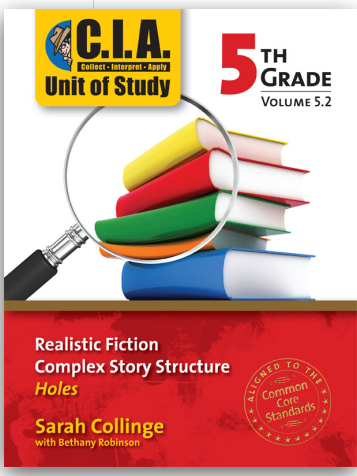


Hatchet

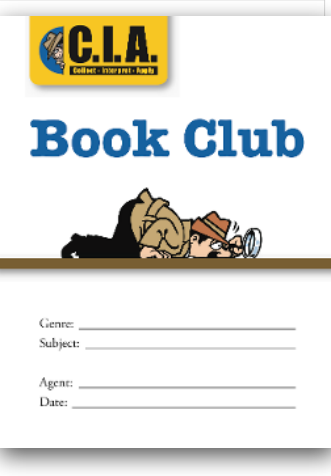
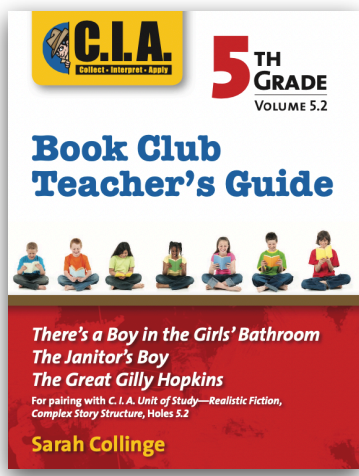


5.1 Book Box  
Set of 16 Titles

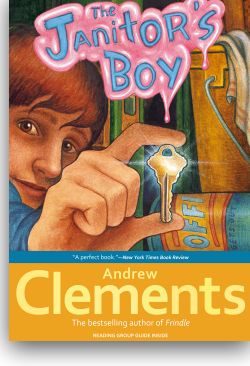
Unit  
5.2



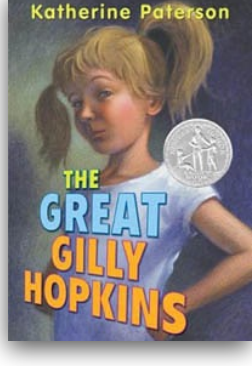
Holes



There's a Boy  
in the Girls'  
Bathroom



The Janitor's  
Boy

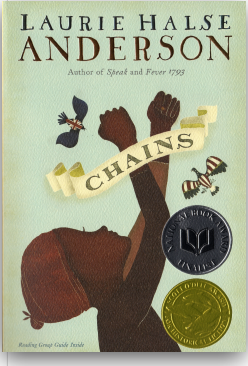
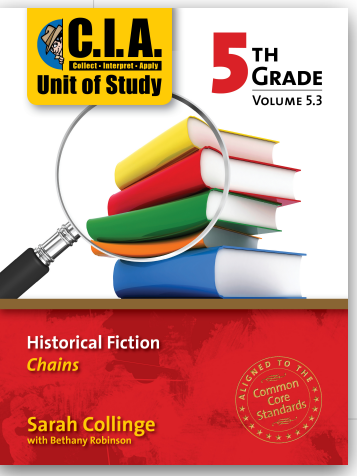


The Great  
Gilly Hopkins

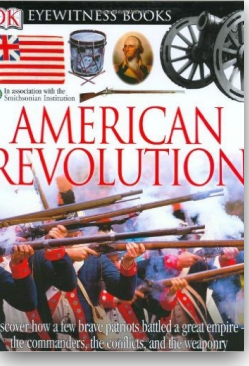
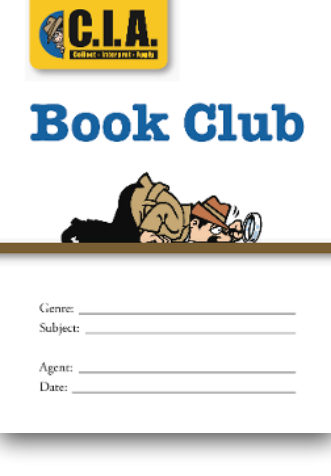
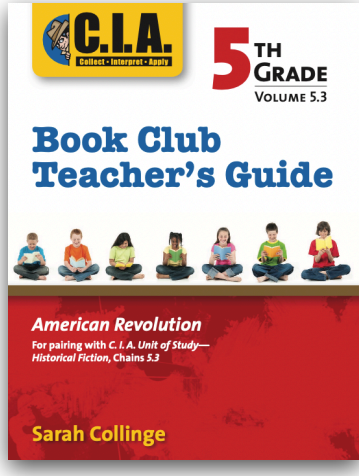


5.2 Book Box  
Set of 16 Titles

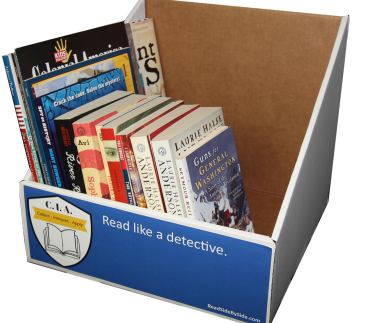
Unit  
5.3



Chains

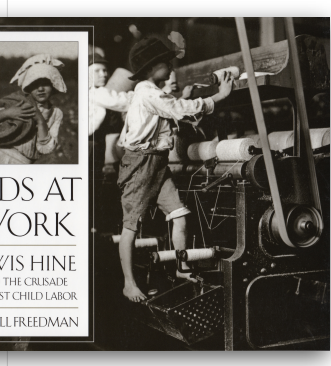
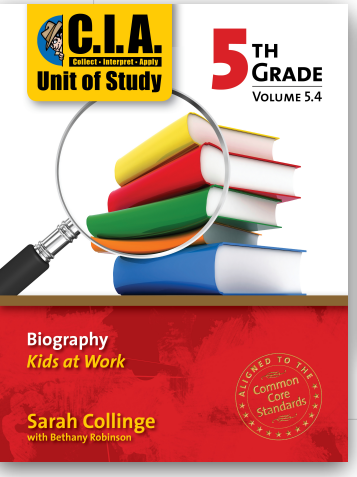


American  
Revolution

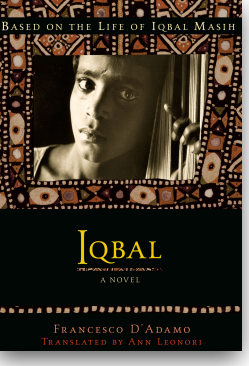
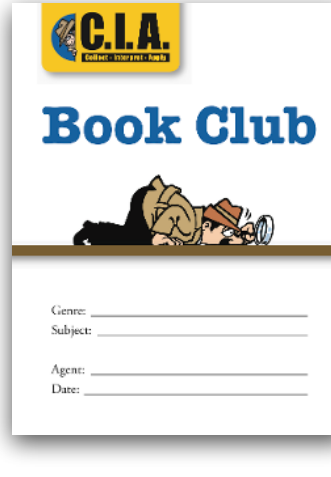
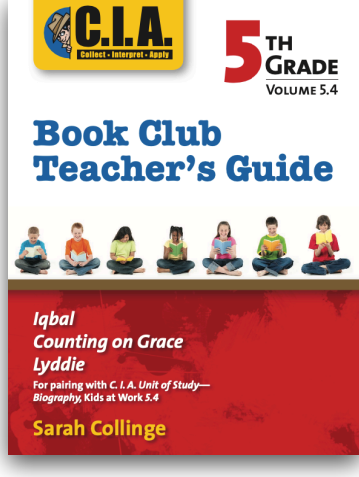


5.3 Book Box  
Set of 16 Titles

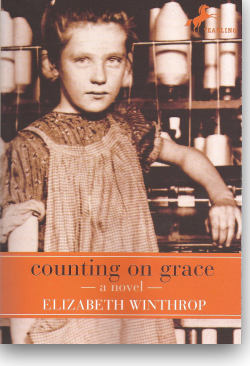
Unit  
5.4



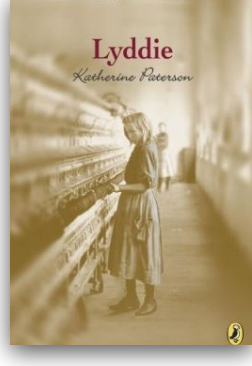
Kids at Work



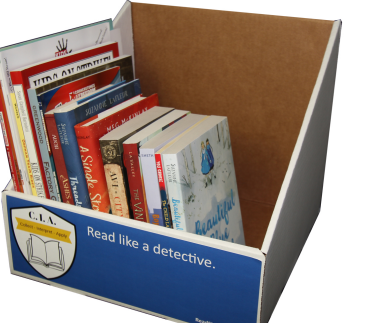
Iqbal



Counting on  
Grace

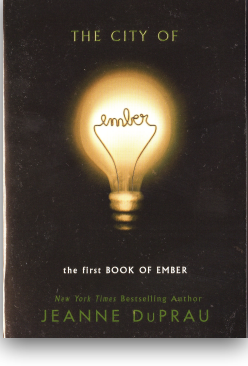
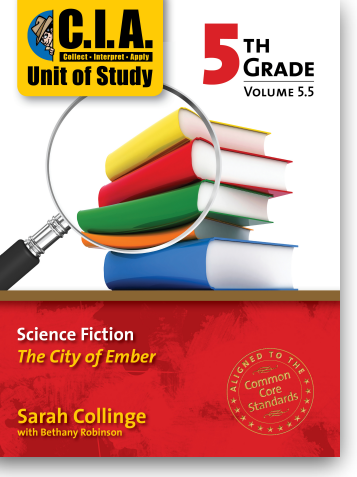


Lyddie

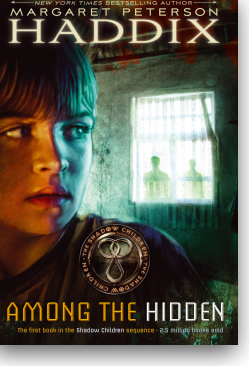
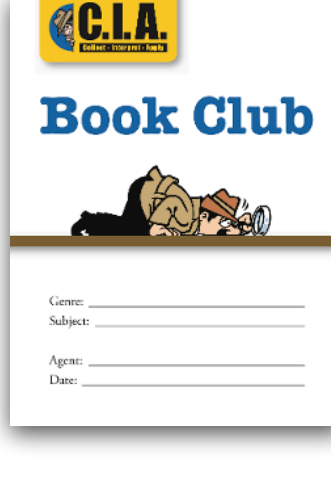
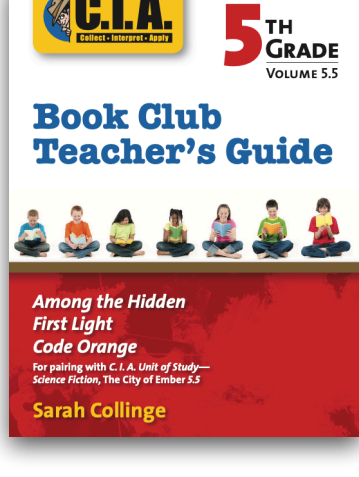


5.4 Book Box  
Set of 16 Titles

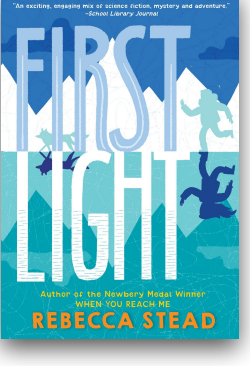
Unit  
5.5



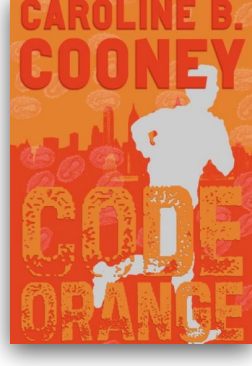
The City  
of Ember



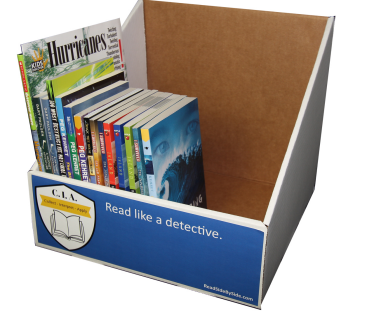
Among  
the Hidden



First Light



Code Orange



5.5 Book Box  
Set of 16 Titles

Fifth-grade students explore themes of survival and human rights—past, present, and future—as they read rich, quality fiction and nonfiction.



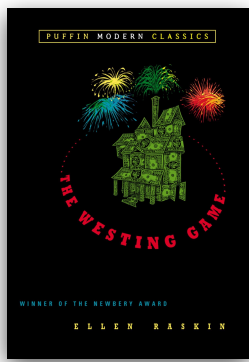
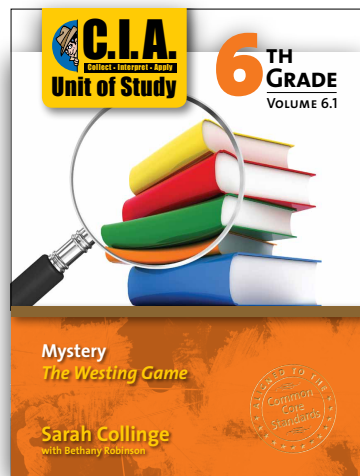
# 6th Grade Reading Curriculum

## Read-Aloud Units of Study

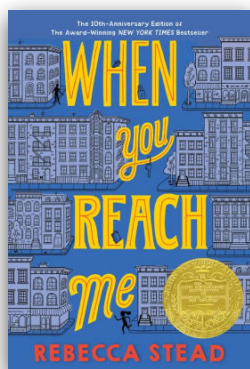
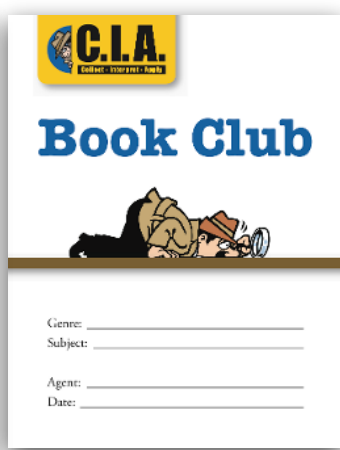
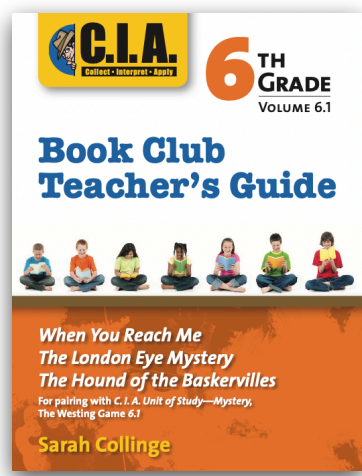
## Book Club Teacher's Guides

## Book Boxes for Extended Reading

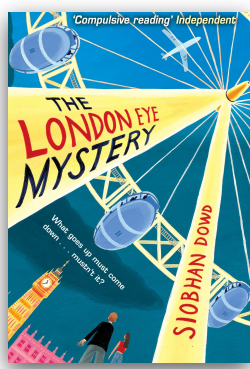
Unit  
6.1



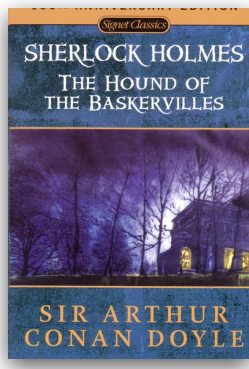
The Westing Game



When You Reach Me



The London Eye Mystery

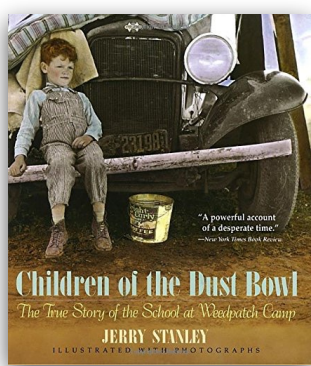
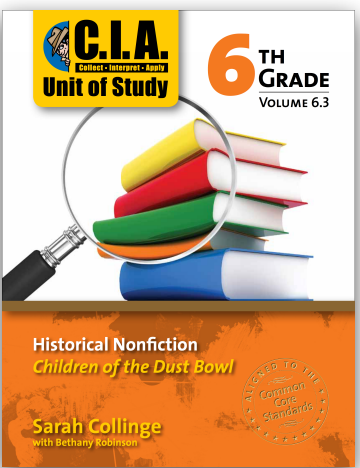


The Hound of the Baskervilles

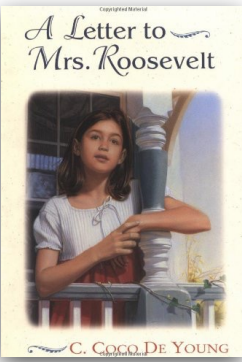
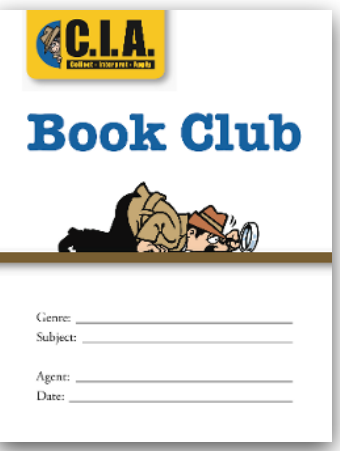
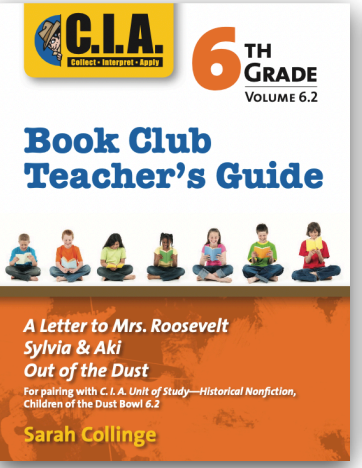


6.1 Book Box Set of 16 Titles

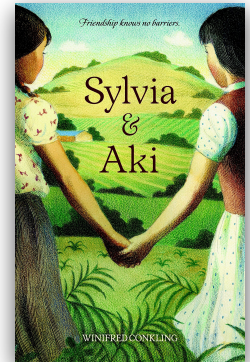
Unit  
6.2



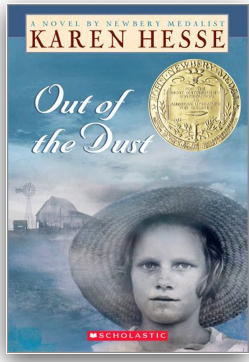
Children of the Dust Bowl



A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt



Sylvia & Aki

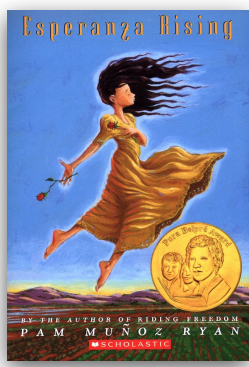
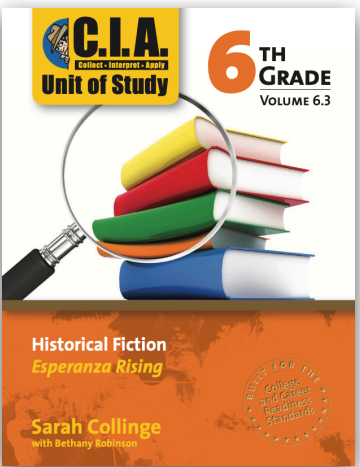


Out of the Dust

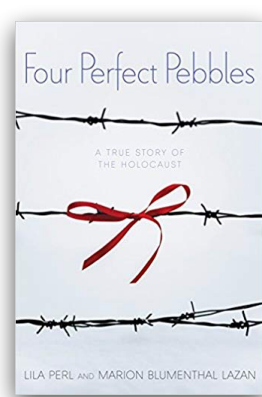
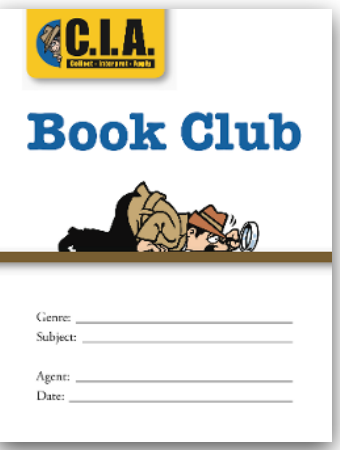
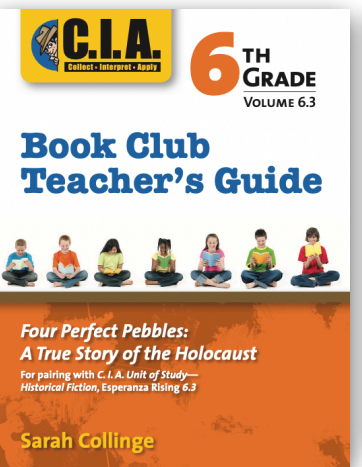


6.2 Book Box Set of 16 Titles

Unit  
6.3



Esperanza Rising



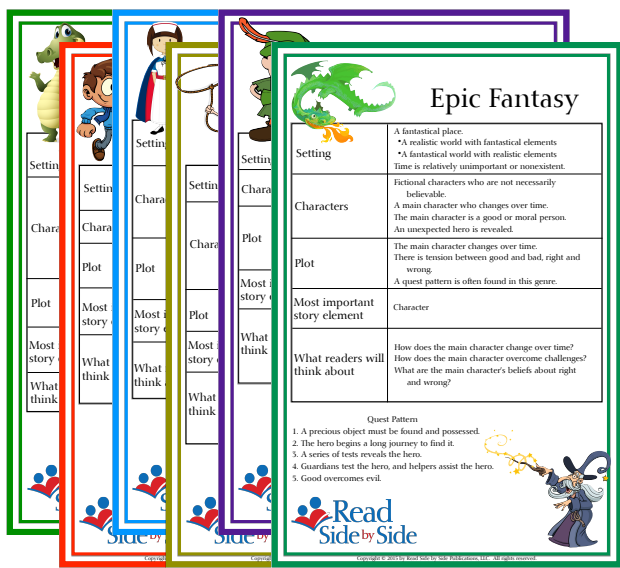
Four Perfect Pebbles



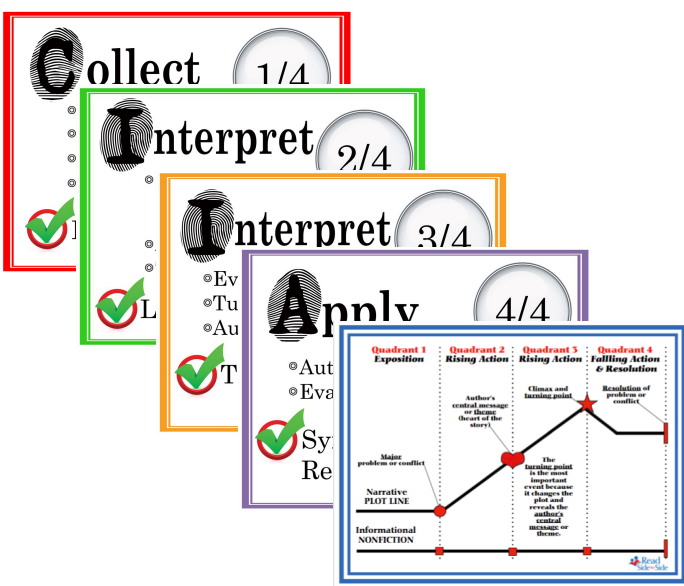
6.3 Book Box Set of 16 Titles

Sixth-grade students explore the theme of the American Dream, and the push and pull factors that caused people to move during the Great Depression and World War II.

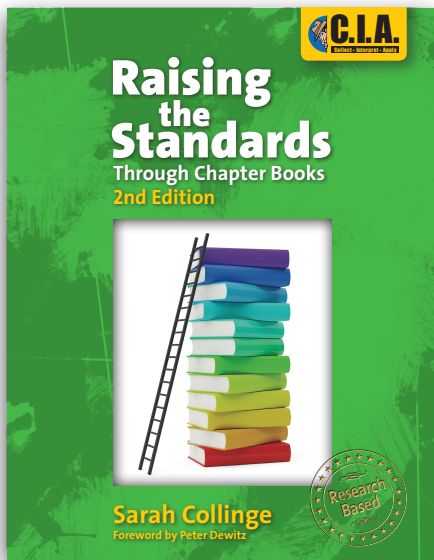
[Readsidebyside.com/sixth-grade-resources](https://ReadSideBySide.com/sixth-grade-resources)



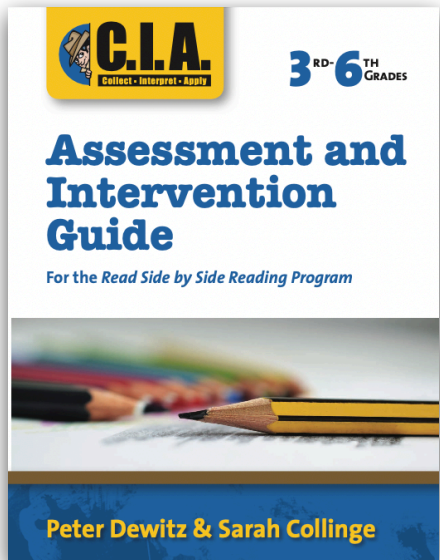
Genre Poster Sets



C. I. A. Poster Sets



Raising the Standards  
Through Chapter Books



Assessment &  
Intervention Guide



# Aligned to the Science of Reading

A reading program should conform to the *science of reading*—the body of knowledge of research on reading and reading instruction. The critical components of the *science of reading* outlined below include the five pillars of the National Reading Panel (NICHD, 2000) as well as motivation and the development of knowledge. All are essential to student’s reading success in grades 3-6. **The *Read Side by Side Reading Program* is built on the science!**

Critical Components of Reading Instruction 3-6	<i>Read Side by Side Reading Program</i> Alignment to Science
Motivation & Interest	Utilizes a wide range of texts that appeal to middle-grade readers, while employing purposeful and engaging activities that increase collaboration and a sense of achievement and celebration of oneself as a reader.
Oral Language	Lessons in read-aloud and book club increase students’ oral language skills through listening, engaging with peers, scripted turn and talk discussion, and developing opinions and ideas.
Foundational Skill (3-6)	Teaches phonological and morphological skill to enhance spelling, vocabulary, and word identification. The decoding by analogy strategy is used to support students who struggle to decode unknown words.
Fluency & Volume	Provides modeling, guided practice, and intervention for students to increase their reading fluency and stamina. Volume of reading is achieved as students read 10 pages or 2,000 words per day.
Vocabulary & Knowledge	Explicitly teaches vocabulary through the daily routine and offers opportunities for students to utilize new words in discussion and writing. Knowledge is built through a variety of text types in thematic units.
Reading Comprehension	Explicitly teaches how to comprehend text through the use of strategies, metacognition, and attention to text structure. Students discuss, take notes and write to synthesize learning.
Assessment	Utilizes a variety of formative and summative assessments in order to guide instruction that is differentiated to the needs of the students. Teachers are directed in how to provide feedback to students.
Effective Instruction	Engages students in whole group, small group, and one-on-one instruction as needed. Instructional techniques are designed to increase student motivation and success.

Learn more about the program alignment.

[readsidebyside.com/program-alignment](https://readsidebyside.com/program-alignment)

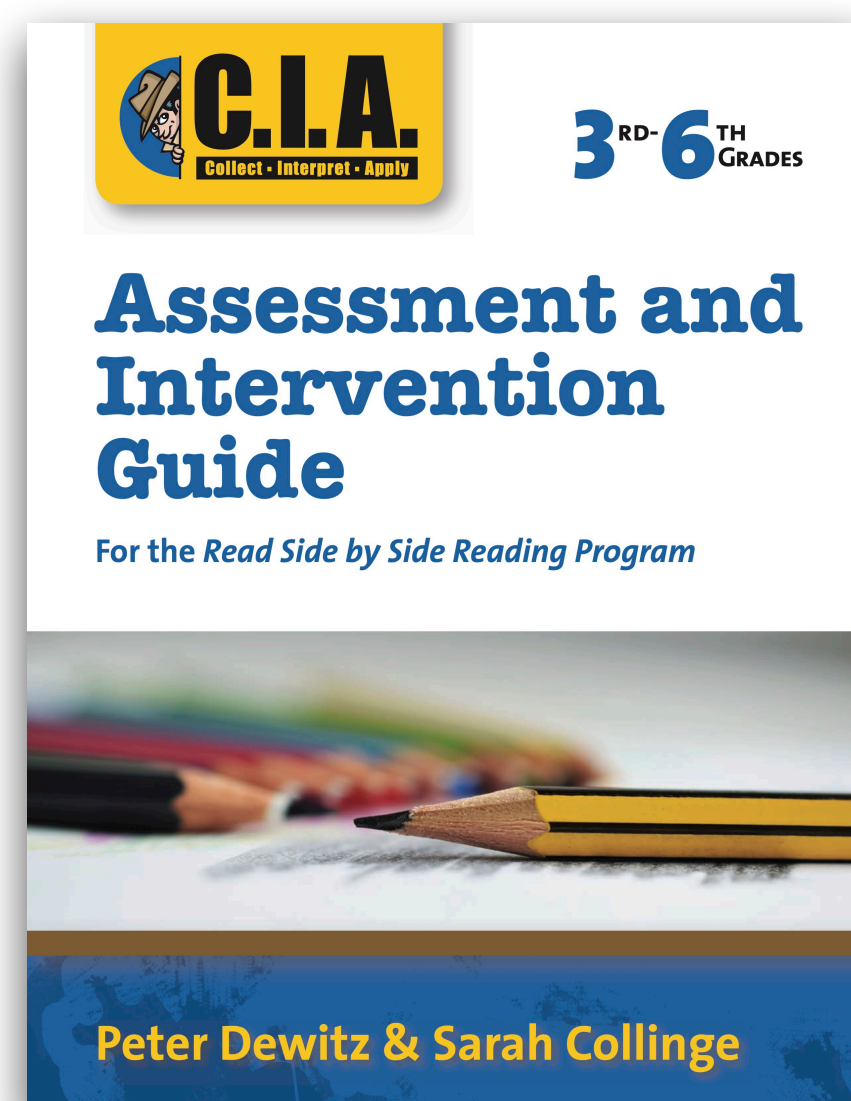


# Supporting Readers

The *Read Side by Side Reading Program* infuses strategies for sheltered instruction to support **EL, Title 1, Special Education, and Highly Capable** students. Strategies include:

- Clearly defined language objectives,
- Explicit instruction,
- Differentiation of text,
- Links between past and new learning,
- Instruction in key vocabulary,
- Integration of listening, speaking, and writing,
- Modeling using think-aloud,
- Supplemental media support,
- Visual aids,
- Consistent use of scaffolding,
- Higher level thinking skills,
- Cooperative pairs and groups; and
- High levels of student engagement.

The *Assessment and Intervention Guide* provides tools for supporting students who struggle with comprehension, vocabulary, decoding, and fluency.



*“We have seen great changes in our students this year. The students have loved all of the books in the program. My students are improving in their comprehension and using the strategies in their own reading. We have seen improvement in writing as well, but a love of reading over-all. Thank you for this wonderful program!” ~4th grade teacher*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What modes of writing are taught?

Writing modes include:

- expository,
- opinion,
- persuasive; and
- narrative.

Students will write both *short* and *long* pieces within the program. For a more robust writing program, add our new supplemental units found at [readsidebyside.com/writing!](https://readsidebyside.com/writing!)

## Does the program teach spelling & grammar?

The *Read Side by Side Reading Program* is not a full, language arts program. Currently, **explicit spelling and grammar instruction is not fully provided**. Spelling and grammar may need to be supplemented with other programs.

## Do the units need to be taught in order?

Thematic units build knowledge across a grade level and the 3-6 sequence. Students will transfer learning from one unit to the next. Texts increase in complexity across the year. For this reason, it is recommended that the units be taught in the order suggested.

## How is the use of technology incorporated?

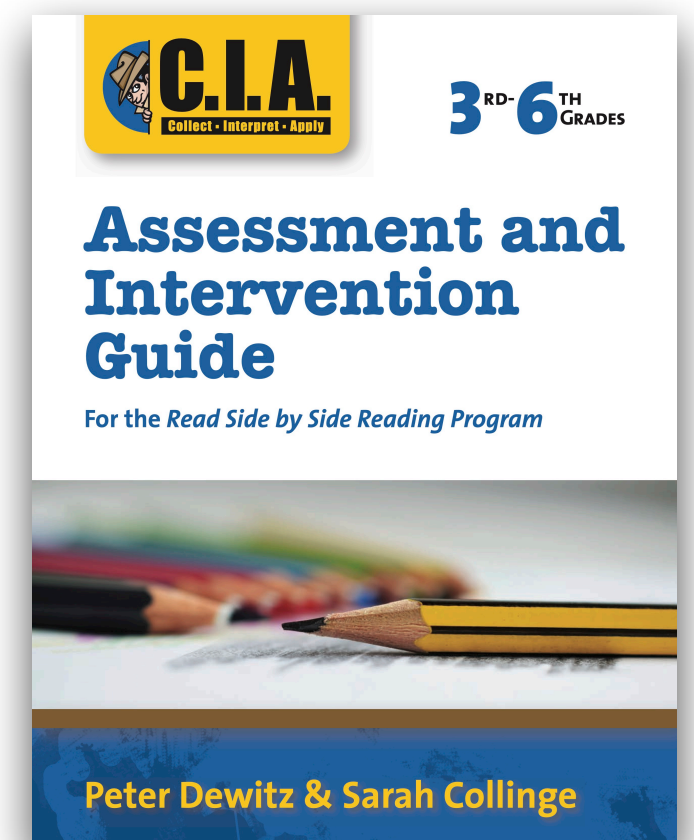
The program does not require any use of technology. Teachers are encouraged to use technology to enhance the program. Online teacher resources are provided at [Readsidebyside.com/resources](https://Readsidebyside.com/resources). Teachers will find links to nonfiction articles, and fillable forms to share with students for assessment purposes. All of the student notebooks are also available as e-notebooks.

Units at each grade level have been converted to virtual units for pandemic teaching and homeschool programs.



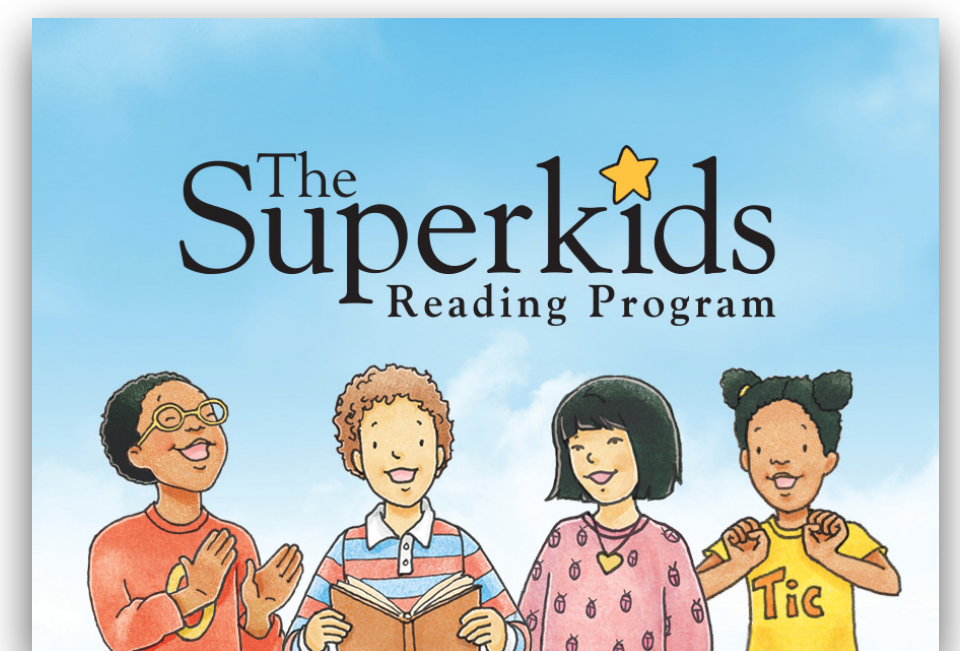
# What assessments are included?

The *Assessment and Intervention Guide* provides the tools to help teachers build assessments into their daily instruction. Reliable, valid, and useful tools include: surveys, conference forms, running records, exit tickets, checklists, rubrics, and record keeping forms. These tools are available for download at: [Readsidebyside.com/resources](https://ReadSideBySide.com/resources).



# What about K-2?

We partner with Zaner-Bloser Inc. to recommend *The Superkids Reading Program* for your K-2 students. This program explicitly teaches foundational skill and transitions easily to into chapter book reading. Learn more: [Zaner-bloser.com/reading/superkids-reading-program](https://Zaner-bloser.com/reading/superkids-reading-program).



Not seeing your question? More FAQs can be found at:  
[Readsidebyside.com/faq](https://Readsidebyside.com/faq)

*“This program has made me on-fire for teaching again. It has been largely contagious with my students. I love being able to teach the core skills and concepts in any text. This curriculum and the CIA approach promotes life-long reading!”*

*~5/6 Teacher, Washington*



# Bring the *Read Side by Side Reading Program* to your school!

We partner with schools and districts across the U. S. and internationally. We would love to work with you!

Contact Us:  
[info@readsidebyside.com](mailto:info@readsidebyside.com)



Founder,  
Sarah Collinge



## [Shop.readsidebyside.com](http://Shop.readsidebyside.com)

We make it easy to outfit your school with materials that increase motivation, confidence, and success!

Whether you are looking to buy the whole program, or just try out a couple of the units—we have buying options for every budget and need.

Purchase orders accepted! Need help?

Contact us: [info@readsidebyside.com](mailto:info@readsidebyside.com)



425-412-3724

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