

***The Good Reader's Kit***  
**Research Base**

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## Introduction

Over the past few years, initiatives within the No Child Left Behind federal legislation have generated a commitment to focus on improving reading education in our schools. While most of the attention focused on early literacy skills, the recent interest in the literacy skills of adolescent readers has surfaced.

The report *Reading Next: A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy*, commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation and released by the Alliance for Excellent Education, has generated a commitment to address the quality of reading instruction in middle and high schools today. According to the *Reading Next* report, approximately eight million fourth through twelfth graders struggle to read at grade level and up to 70 percent of older readers require some form of remediation. To address this issue, the *Reading Next* report defined fifteen elements aimed at improving middle and high school literacy achievement that provides the foundation needed to move adolescent students forward towards reading success.

National Geographic School Publishing / Hampton-Brown used the most current scientifically-based research in the development

of *The Good Reader's Kit* designed to inspire adolescent readers in grades 6-12 and move them forward to become engaged, strategic readers. Dr. David W. Moore, author of *The Good Reader's Kit*, knows firsthand the needs of adolescent readers with his experience as a secondary social studies and reading teacher combined with his current research and work at Arizona State University where he teaches secondary school teacher preparation courses in adolescent literacy. Dr. Moore co-chaired the International Reading Association's Commission on Adolescent Literacy, and his twenty-five year publication record balances research reports, professional articles, book chapters and books.

This document defines the research base of *The Good Reader's Kit* and the alignment of the program to the fifteen elements of effective adolescent reading instruction defined by *Reading Next: A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy*.

## The Good Reader's Kit and Reading Next

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>READING NEXT RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE GOOD READER'S KIT</b></p>
<p><b>Direct, explicit comprehension instruction</b> Instruction in the strategies and processes that proficient readers use to understand what they read, including summarizing, keeping track of one's own understanding, and a host of other practices</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader's Kit</i> provides concrete, practical lessons that build students' understanding of seven key reading strategies: Plan and Monitor, Determine Importance, Ask Questions, Visualize, Make Connections, Make Inferences, and Synthesize. Students receive explicit instruction in each strategy following a Teach/Model, Guided Practice, and Practice/Apply lesson path. Students learn to adjust these strategies according to the particular texts and tasks at hand, and across a wide variety of genres.</p>
<p><b>Effective instructional practices embedded in content</b> Includes language arts teachers using content-area texts and content-area teachers providing instruction and practice in reading and writing skills specific to their subject area</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader's Kit</i> provides instruction and practice with the seven key reading strategies to promote transfer across genres. Students have the opportunity to use each reading strategy across a wide variety of genres, including content-area text selections. Chapter 4 in <i>The Good Reader's Kit</i> includes explicit instruction for each of the seven reading strategies with a focus on how to put each strategy to work across genres.</p>
<p><b>Motivation and self-directed learning</b> Includes building motivation to read and learn and providing students with the instruction and support needed for independent learning tasks they will face after graduation</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader's Kit</i> inspires students to become engaged, strategic readers. The materials provide students with accessible high-interest selections that respect the experience of mature students. Students learn why reading is important to their lives. Real-world reading such as classified ads, web pages and job applications connect to students' out-of-school literacy experiences preparing them for success beyond the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Text-based collaborative learning</b> Involves students interacting with one another around a variety of texts</p>	<p>During each chapter introduction in <i>The Good Reader's Kit</i>, students participate in collaborative activities that correlate to the focus of the chapter. <i>The Good Reader's Kit</i> also provides students with multiple partner, group activities and cooperative learning strategies to help accelerate academic vocabulary instruction and develop key reading skills and strategies.</p>

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<p><b>Strategic tutoring</b> Provides student with intense individualized reading, writing and content instruction as needed</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> is the perfect tool to support instruction in any setting -- in-class support for core programs, intervention classes, after-school tutoring and summer school. The lessons in <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> allow teachers to target lessons for students that need additional support.</p>
<p><b>Diverse texts</b> Texts are at a variety of difficulty levels and on a variety of topics</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> is an in-depth resource at 4th grade readability with a mature look and high-interest reading selections. Students practice and apply the concepts they are learning in texts representing 32 different genres. A few examples include driving, extreme sports, wrestling, and technology.</p>
<p><b>Intensive writing</b> Includes instruction connected to the kinds of writing tasks students will have to perform well in high school and beyond</p>	<p>Throughout <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> students are provided multiple opportunities to respond to the reading selections through writing. The Reader’s Workout Practice Book is an interactive tool which includes new reading selections for strategy and skill application. In it, students complete various writing activities including completing graphic organizers, writing summaries, and more.</p>
<p><b>A technology component</b> Includes technology as a tool for and a topic of literacy instruction</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> website, <a href="http://hbgoodreaders.com">hbgoodreaders.com</a>, provides students with opportunities to search for books based on their interests. Students also have access to downloadable chapter surveys for each chapter in <i>The Good Reader’s Guide</i>. These surveys can be used at the beginning and end of the chapters to give students evidence of their progress.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing formative assessment of students</b> Informal, often daily assessment of how students are progressing under current instructional practices</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> provides a variety of effective assessment tools to help engage students in their own learning, evaluate student progress, and benchmark overall reading performance. Student surveys and vocabulary logs focus on students’ reading habits, attitudes and preferences.</p>

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<p><b>Extended time for literacy</b> Includes approximately two to four hours of literacy instruction and practice that takes place in language arts and content-area classes</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> is a flexible program designed to fit any setting - in-class support for core programs, intervention classes, after-school tutoring, and summer school. Teachers can target a particular topic or teach each one sequentially. Pacing plans are flexible to provide focused instruction for easy application in any setting.</p>
<p><b>Professional development</b> Includes both long term and ongoing opportunities for professional development</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> Teacher’s Edition offers teachers explicit instruction and concrete, practical solutions to build reading comprehension and engage readers, while providing built-in supports for English learners. National Geographic School Publishing / Hampton-Brown provides ongoing professional development to support the importance of <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i>. Districts should train selected teachers and/or reading coaches to support ongoing, job-embedded professional development.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing summative assessment of students and programs</b> Provides data that are reported for accountability purposes</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> provides effective assessment tools to help engage students in their own learning, evaluate student progress and benchmark overall reading performance. Vocabulary and Reading pre- and posttests include two parallel forms to measure the expected outcomes for each chapter. Reading Selection Tests, Comprehension Skills Tests, and Rubrics all support teachers to benchmark overall reading performance.</p>
<p><b>Teacher teams</b> Interdisciplinary teams that meet regularly to discuss students and align instruction</p>	<p><i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> is the perfect tool to support interdisciplinary teams because the comprehension strategies taught promote transfer across genres and in all subject areas. This common language will not only support teachers, but assist students as well as they move from one content class to another. Ongoing assessment tools in <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> enable teacher teams to report, track and discuss student data.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>READING NEXT RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE GOOD READER’S KIT</b></p>
<p><b>Leadership</b> Involves principals and teachers who have a solid understanding of how to teach reading and writing to the full array of students present in schools</p>	<p>National Geographic School Publishing / Hampton-Brown provides support for administrators and instructional leaders to incorporate effective reading strategies across the curriculum to address the needs of all students, including English learners. The foundation for literacy that <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> sets, provides faculty and staff with the information they need to make the vital decisions necessary for creating a schoolwide literacy program.</p>
<p><b>A comprehensive and coordinated literacy program</b> Interdisciplinary and interdepartmental and may even coordinate with out-of-school organizations and the local community</p>	<p>As part of a comprehensive literacy program, <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> provides the opportunity for students to connect what they are reading to their community through Practice and Apply activities. As mentioned in <i>Reading Next</i> Element 2, <i>The Good Reader’s Kit</i> promotes transfer across genres and all subject areas to support reading success.</p>

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