

Zaner-Bloser
The Superkids
Reading Program

Grounded in **RESEARCH**. Infused with **FUN!**



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SPARK Motivation

as students meet and grow with the Superkids, a cast of endearing characters whose adventures engage and inspire them to learn.

EMPOWER Educators

with an evidence-based, user-friendly program and ongoing support.

MAXIMIZE Outcomes

with a systematic, explicit program that solidifies foundational skills, builds knowledge, and nurtures confidence and curiosity.



The Superkids Reading Program is a comprehensive English language arts curriculum crafted specifically for K–2 students and how they learn. The systematic, explicit instructional path solidifies foundational skills and builds knowledge to grow students' confidence as readers.

Superkids inspires and motivates students from the start with a cast of relatable characters at the heart of the program. Their ongoing adventures, combined with evidence-based practices, set students on the right path to literacy success.



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Every teacher knows that one connection, one moment of delight, or one “aha” moment can inspire a love of learning that lasts. *Superkids* helps you ignite that fundamental spark in your students with the lovable, relatable, and joyful characters at the heart of the program.



Meet Your New Best Friends

When students feel connected to and immersed in their texts, learning to read becomes a pleasure. Foster these deep, meaningful connections by introducing students to a lovable group of friends: **the Superkids**.

The Superkids characters begin as mnemonic devices to learn new letter-sounds in kindergarten, but quickly become good friends your students will keep

throughout first and second grade. Students naturally develop special connections to one or more characters as they see parts of themselves reflected in their stories. Whether they relate to Sal’s love of sports, Ettabetta’s quizzical curiosity, or Nina’s interest in nature, these lasting bonds create engagement with the program that leads to greater success.



Top row: Ettabetta, Nina, Adam, Mya, Darshi
Middle row: Fall, Tamika, Cass, Hakeem, Izzy
Bottom row: Lily, Patrick, Golly, Sal, Oliver

“This is why I love the *Superkids* curriculum so much . . . joy, pleasure, and play are seen as the foundation—as setting the framework, the basic blueprint, by which all of our children will **SOAR**.”

—Dr. David Kirkland, Founder and CEO of forwardED, LLC



Character Spotlight: Mya

The first Superkid students meet and befriend in kindergarten is **Mya Williams**, a marvelous **maker**!

Mya loves to build and craft. She is skilled with many techniques and tools, often using her innate innovation and curiosity to try out new materials for her various projects. Mya is an excellent planner and problem-solver, always going the extra mile to make others feel special with her handmade objects, decorating skills, and more.



Name: Mya Williams

Letter-sound: Mm /m/

Introduced in: Unit 1, kindergarten

Special interest: Making things



Can't wait to learn about the rest of the Superkids? Visit zaner-bloser.com/meet-the-superkids to see a digital scrapbook all about them, their hobbies, and their stories!



Watch Engaged Students Become Enthusiastic Learners

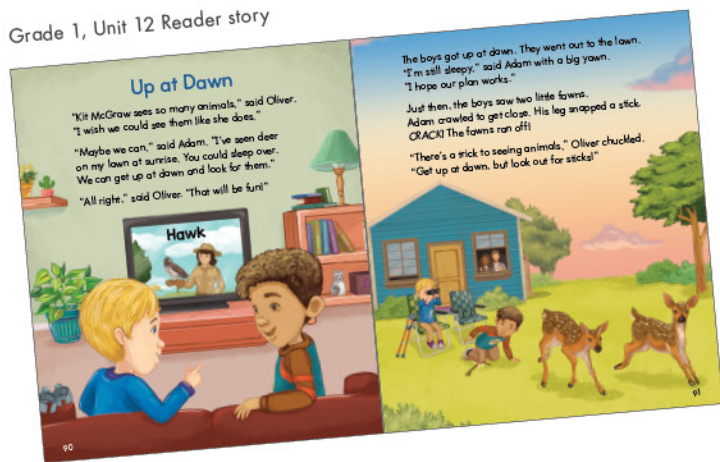
Motivated learning relies on **interest** and **success**. Students deserve a program that delivers both.

While captivating stories about the Superkids keep students eager to find out what happens next, their interest is also piqued by engaging fiction and informational texts that connect reading to read-world experiences and encourage exploration of many topics.

Students' enjoyment is bolstered by equipping them with the foundational skills they need for success. The program's systematic, explicit instruction in these skills ensures that students consistently experience the joy and achievement of really reading—not guessing—giving them confidence as they read more rigorous texts to build knowledge.



Grade 1, Unit 12 Reader story



Make Knowledge-Building Connections

The Superkids' special interests are often used to build knowledge by connecting with the program's science and social studies themes. For example, shortly after reading about how Adam and Oliver hatch a plan to observe wild deer, students read informational text about how they can explore and see wild animals in America's national parks.



Grade 1, Unit 12 Super-Duper Magazine

Develop a Kind Classroom Where Students Thrive

The Superkids' adventures foster discussion about how we treat one another, contribute, and act as good citizens of our classrooms and communities.

Lasting Lessons—embedded social-emotional learning instruction within the Teacher's Guides—encourage students to think critically and apply lessons about kindness, confidence, creativity, and more to their own experiences.

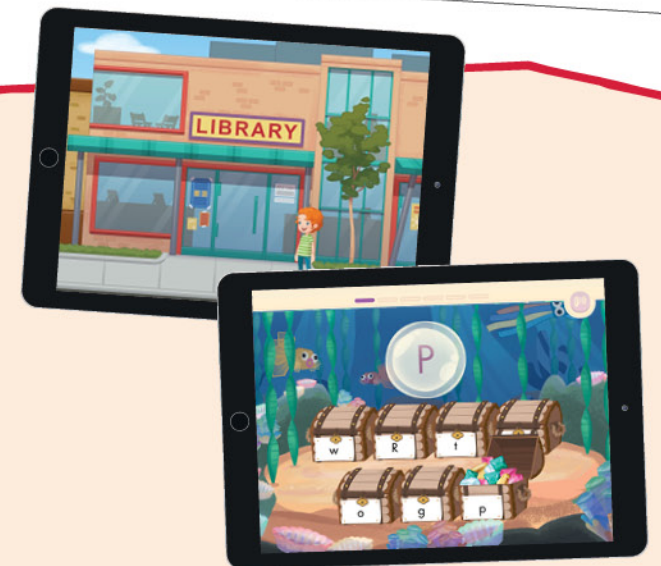


Grade K, Unit 3 Teacher's Guide



Dive Into Superkids World

Superkids World is a digital experience where students can explore and interact with the Superkids and their town while strengthening their literacy skills. Students can customize their own avatars, play games, watch videos, and more. Superkids World creates additional immersion for students, generating enthusiasm and interest that motivates learning.



Teachers deserve to have an English language arts program that works—both for them and for their students. *Superkids* equips teachers with a program they can trust to make a lasting impact on student success because it has a strong research foundation and supports them every step of the way.



Proven and Purposeful Pedagogy

Principles Guided by Decades of Research

Superkids aligns with decades of scientific research that states students benefit from instruction in word recognition and language comprehension. The program follows an explicit and systematic instructional path and includes best practices for teaching reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Superkids is built on five evidence-based principles for teaching literacy in grades K–2.



- 1 Motivation is a key factor in students' success in learning to read.
- 2 Explicit and systematic instruction gives students a reliable way to learn.
- 3 Reading is most effectively taught when integrated with all the language arts.
- 4 Decodable text ensures success, enabling students to really read, not guess.
- 5 Building background knowledge is essential to making meaning from text.

Intentionally Focused on K–2 Learners

Students entering grade 3 need to have a solid foundation in critical early literacy skills, a deep understanding of the alphabetic code, and enough background knowledge to facilitate comprehension. *Superkids* solidifies these skills in K–2 so that by grade 3, students have a wealth of background knowledge and have built the habit of automatically blending and decoding text. This frees students to use their mental energy for the deep, strategic reading required in the intermediate grades—the stage when they transition from **learning to read** to **reading to learn**.

Students who have completed *The Superkids Reading Program* can confidently move onto grade 3 as successful readers.



Want to learn about how *Superkids* transforms literacy rates? Visit zaner-bloser.com/superkids-research to see the research.

Driven By Classroom Experts

Created by a Teacher

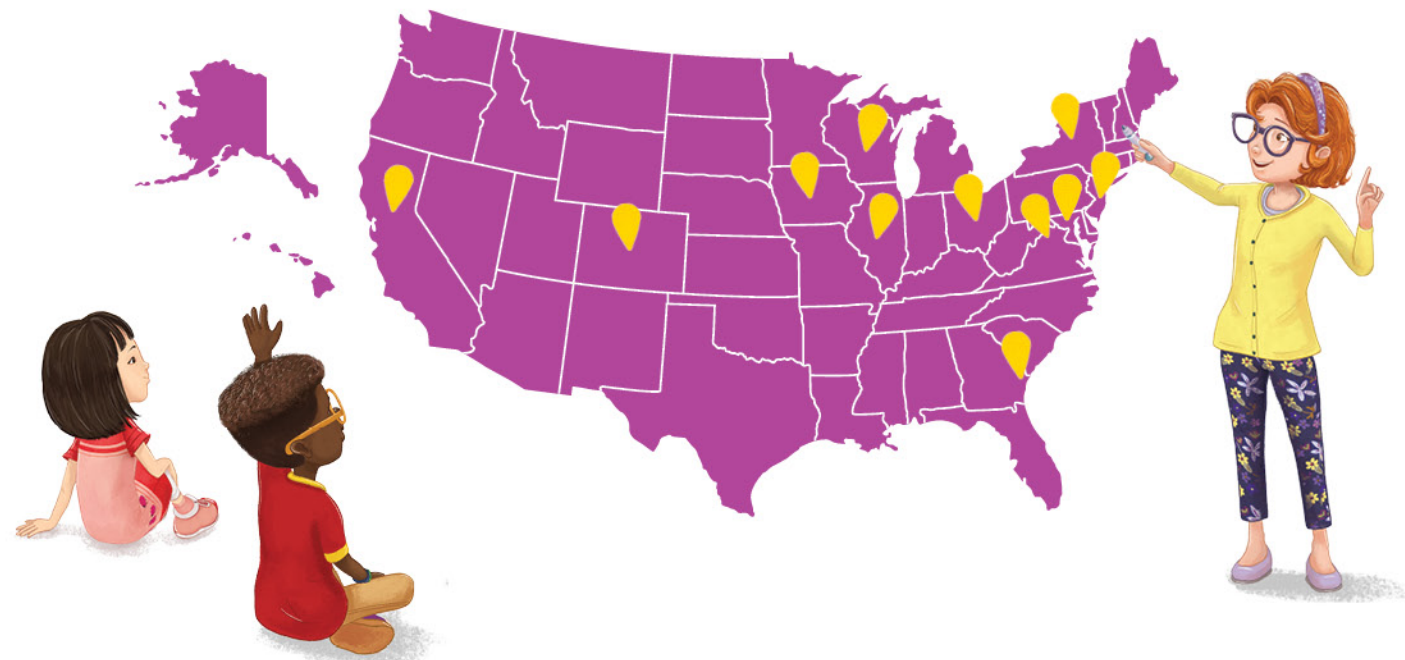
Author Pleasant Rowland wanted to create a program that combined research-based practice with joy for her students. After studying the literature of leading developmental psychologists, reading experts, and education theorists, she created and published the original version of *The Superkids Reading Program* in 1978. The program met early success with students who loved its characters and with teachers who loved its results.

Today, brain research supports what Rowland suggested about learning to read. Since its introduction, *Superkids* has been continually improved with feedback from teachers and current research.



Informed by Teachers

The latest edition of *Superkids* was developed in collaboration with educators from across the country who provided their hands-on feedback about the program and shared their expertise. Instructional enhancements were informed by users of the program and experts in the areas of literacy, diversity and inclusion, developmentally appropriate practices, and more.



Supported by Teachers

As a group comprised of many former classroom teachers and administrators, our Professional Learning team knows that when teachers feel empowered and successful, their students feel empowered and successful. Our team creates a thriving partnership with each school, working to provide the customized support needed to successfully implement the *Superkids* program. Together, we'll create a plan for training that is **fulfilling, enjoyable, and impactful**—and we know how to do it, because we've been in your shoes too.



“*Superkids*' professional development is second to none. We've never had that with any other program. They are AMAZING. They came out in person and were hands-on to help us.”

—Desarae Simmons, Assistant Principal, OK



When students and teachers are given a program that contains everything they need to thrive, amazing things happen. *Superkids* is designed to maximize students' potential and help them become confident, curious readers and writers through an instructional path that solidifies foundational skills, builds knowledge, and lets their imaginations soar.



Discover, Learn, and Grow Through Big Topics

Instruction centers on **Big Topics**—science, social studies, or other universal themes that helps students learn about the world around them as they develop into knowledgeable readers. The Big Topics help students relate their readings to larger ideas and concepts as they listen and read, then discuss and write about what they've learned, answering **Essential Questions** that help solidify their knowledge base. Each grade level includes six Big Topics.

Big Topics

	Warm-Up Unit	Units 1–4	Units 5–8	Units 9–12	Units 13–16	Unit 17
Grade K	Making New Friends	Favorite Things	Learning About Our World	Community and Us	Nature and Us	Looking Back and Looking Ahead
Grade 1	Friends Old and New	Animals and Us	Tools and Technology	Arts and Entertainment	Mind and Body	Looking Back and Looking Ahead
Grade 2	Friends Old and New	Health and Well-Being	Living Things and the Natural World	Customs and Celebrations	Innovation and Exploration	Looking Back and Looking Ahead

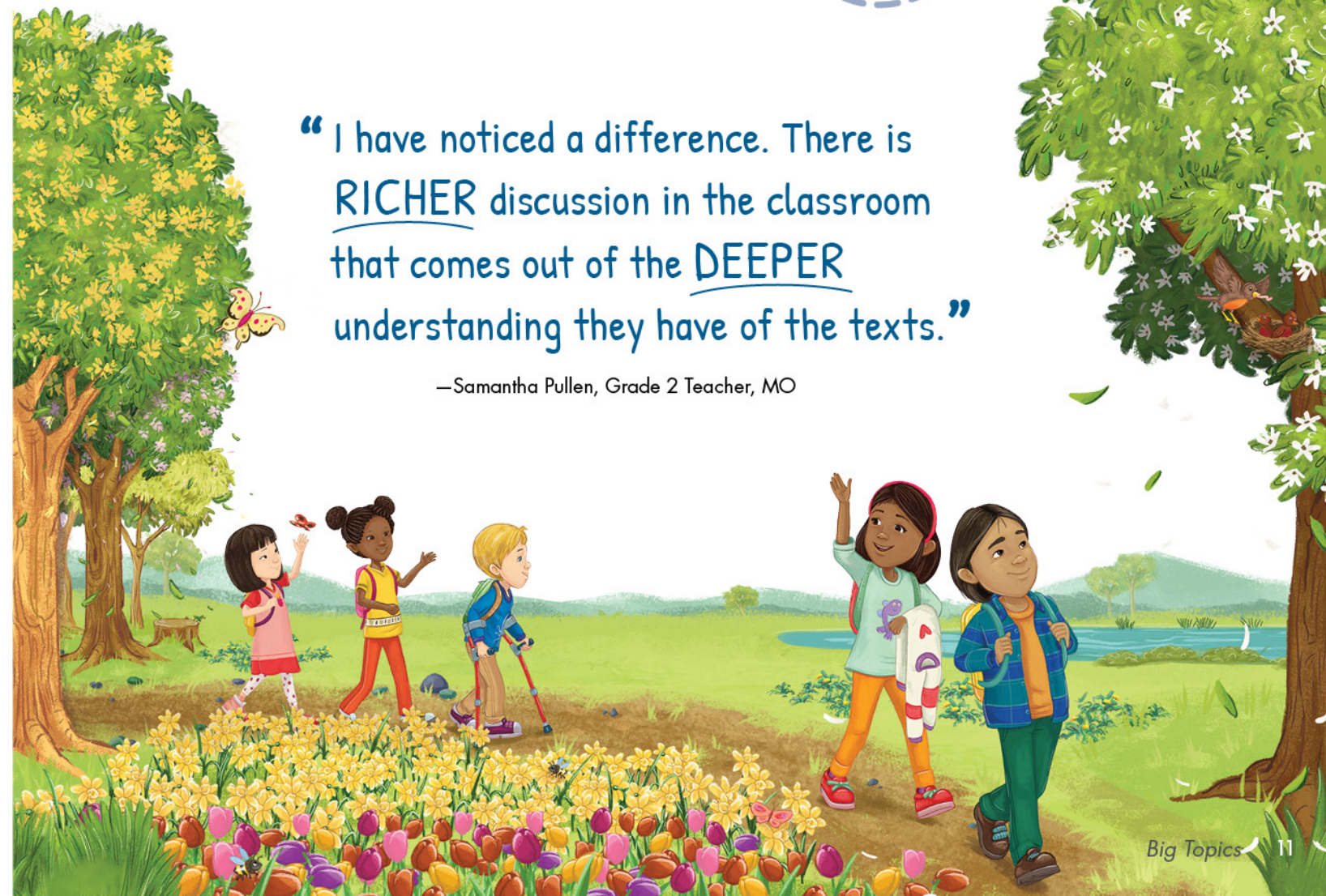
Paving a Pathway to Insight

Big Topics progress in depth and complexity throughout grades K–2, building upon prior knowledge acquired to deepen understanding within a subject area. Kindergarteners who learn broadly about nature progress to a specific focus on animals in grade 1, and the same students use their knowledge from previous grades to delve into a deeper exploration of the natural world in grade 2.



“I have noticed a difference. There is **RICHER** discussion in the classroom that comes out of the **DEEPER** understanding they have of the texts.”

—Samantha Pullen, Grade 2 Teacher, MO



Consistent and Comprehensive Lessons

Superkids lessons are divided into three strands: **Word Work**, **Reading**, and **Writing**. All lessons within the program are built on this consistent structure to help students progress in their skills from kindergarten through grade 2. Each strand informs the others by overlapping and integrating skills, and all three work together to create a comprehensive, robust English language arts program.



Word Work

See pages 13–15.

Reading

See pages 16–19.

Writing

See pages 20–21.

Set Off on the Right Foot With Strong Foundational Skills

Word Work provides students with instruction and practice in the foundational skills they need to become successful readers and writers. Some of these critical skills include phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency. The carefully designed, systematic, and explicit instruction builds the foundation for efficient, fluent reading and effective comprehension.


Quick Review and Progress Check

Daily Warm-Ups begin every Word Work lesson and provide two or three quick, simple routines that reinforce and informally assess recently taught skills.

Word Work

Daily Warm-Up

Times 10 minutes
Use the digital warm-up in the teacher portal or follow the directions below.

<p>Phonemic Awareness Blending to Make Compound Words. Tell children they will listen to two words and put the two words together to make the compound word.</p> <p>Say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first word is bath. The second word is tub. I can blend the two words together. The compound word is bathtub. Listen again: bath... tub, bathtub. I can use bathtub in a sentence. We washed the dog in the bathtub. <p>Repeat using these words: snow, man (snowman) out, side (outside) tooth, brush (toothbrush) rain, bow (rainbow) hair, cat (haircut) door, bell (doorbell)</p>	<p>Letter Formation Materials: ice cream paper or Student Whiteboards (handwriting side) Uppercase Letter O. Describe how to form uppercase O as you model writing each letter on Ice Cream Lines.</p> <p>Say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To form uppercase O, touch the strawberry line; circle back all the way around. <p>Have children write uppercase O a few times while you repeat the directions. Then have them write the letters a few times on their own. Tell them to circle their best uppercase O.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>Language and Communication Materials: Picture Cards for apple, cup, hose, turtle, octopus, goat, moon Color Identification. Tell children that they will look at pictures of objects and say what color the objects are. Display the apple Picture Card.</p> <p>Say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first picture is an apple. What color is the apple? Show me a thumbs-up if the apple is red. Show me a thumbs-down if the apple is not red. <p>Repeat the process, using the following cards and colors.</p> <p>cup Is it blue? (yes) octopus Is it red? (no) hose Is it green? (yes) goat Is it pink? (no) turtle Is it blue? (no) moon Is it yellow? (yes)</p>
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2 UNIT 3 • LESSON 1



Grade 1, Unit 3 Teacher's Guide



Lesson 1

Word Work

Daily Warm-Up: Phonemic Awareness and Letter Formation
Phonemic Awareness: /sh/ Articulation and Identification
Phonemic Awareness: /w/ Articulation and Identification
Phonemic Awareness and Phonics: sh/sh/and wh/w/
Decoding and Encoding: New Spelling Words With sh and wh

Reading

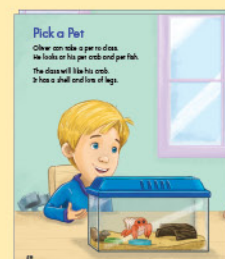
Knowledge Building: Big Topic Connection
Decoding and Fluency: Short Reader 1 Story
Vocabulary: Words to Know Introduction
Listening Comprehension: Read-Aloud Book
Comprehension and Knowledge Building: Read-Aloud Book

Writing

Building Background: Facts and Opinions



Word Work Skills Book 1
pages 59–60



Reader 1
pages 58–59



Unit 3 Read-Aloud Book



Reading Skills Book 1
page 49

Student Objectives

- Articulate /sh/ and /w/
- Identify /sh/ and /w/ in spoken words
- Recognize sound-spellings sh/sh/, wh/w/
- Decode and encode words with sh and wh
- Develop fluency through repeated reading
- Observe punctuation and read with intonation
- Understand Unit 3 Words to Know
- Determine meaning of key vocabulary
- Listen to and discuss a complex read-aloud text
- Make and confirm predictions
- Generate ideas for writing

6 UNIT 3 • LESSON 1

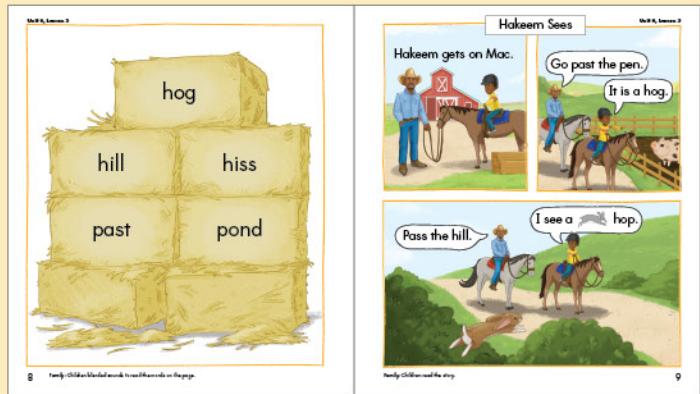
Grade 1, Unit 3 Teacher's Guide

A Defined Sequence for Success

A thorough, systematic, and explicit introduction to foundational skills in kindergarten sets the stage for rigorous **Word Work** instruction in grades 1–2, ensuring students acquire the skills they need to become lifelong readers and writers.

K Kindergarten

Students learn the letters of the alphabet and one sound for each letter (with an introduction to long vowels later in the year). They apply their new skills to blend letter-sounds to read decodable text and write words and sentences.



Grade K, Unit 8, Week 1 Skills Book

Defined Sequence of Instruction

Each letter-sound is introduced with a familiar routine, “**hear it, see it, say it, write it,**” throughout a unit. Students immediately practice new letter-sounds in text that is perfectly matched to the sequence of instruction.

Hear It

Students identify the target phoneme in spoken language.

See It

Students identify the uppercase and lowercase form of the letter.

Say It

Students produce the letter-sound in speech by naming and discussing items that begin with it.

Write It

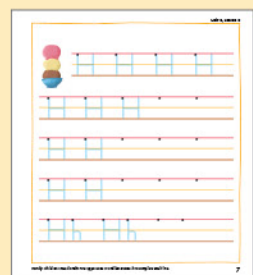
Students form the letter on ice cream lines.



Phoneme Articulation Video



Grade K, Unit 8, Week 1 Skills Book

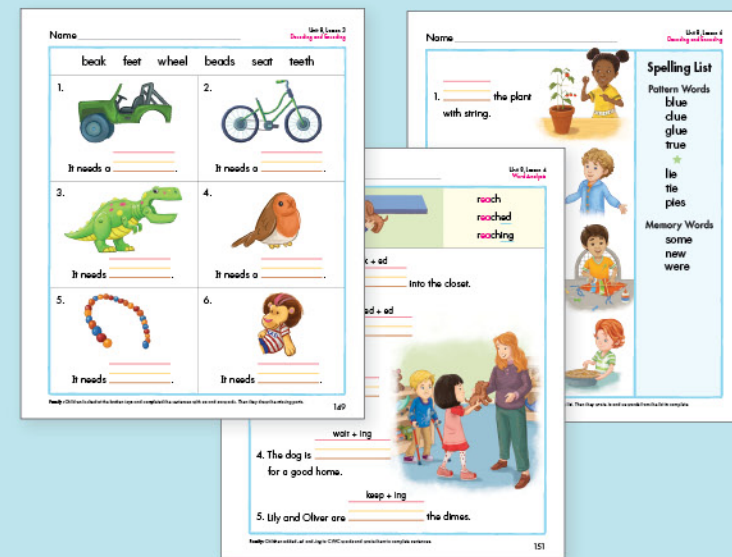


Grade K, Unit 8, Week 1 Skills Book

1

First Grade

Students expand their letter-sound knowledge to include consonant digraphs, long vowels, and vowel combinations, using phonetic and structural patterns to decode and encode longer and more complex words. They learn how to read and form words with inflectional endings and other affixes, building their fluency as they read increasingly complex decodable text.

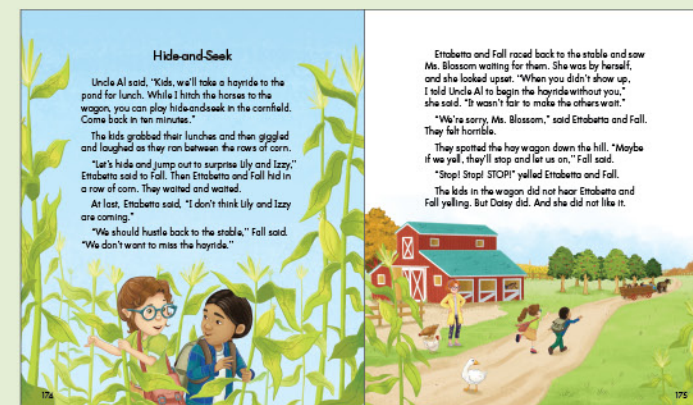


Grade 1, Unit 8 Word Work Skills Book pages

2

Second Grade

Students build on the sound-spelling patterns and structural skills they developed in first grade, consolidating their understanding of all phonetic elements and applying it in fluent reading of grade-level text. By focusing on accuracy, rate, and prosody, students develop automaticity with these skills, freeing their brain energy to focus on the meaning of the text.



Grade 2, Unit 8 Reader story

As K–2 students’ fluency progresses, their understanding of text grows, building the bridge from foundational skills to strong reading comprehension.

Explore the World Through Reading

Reading is more than decoding words on a page—it’s an opportunity to learn, grow, reflect, and build knowledge on important subjects. *Superkids* provides a balance of highly engaging fiction and informational texts for **Reading** instruction and practice.

The read-aloud and student texts have been carefully selected to help students joyfully build knowledge about the program’s Big Topics. Students read texts that are cumulatively decodable—matching the sequence of phonics and word analysis skills taught—helping them develop the strong decoding and fluency skills needed to access more and more sophisticated, uncontrolled text as they progress.



Broaden Horizons and Build Knowledge With Read-Alouds

Rich, authentic trade books and digital informational texts are read aloud to students throughout the program, ensuring they have experience with complex text, vocabulary, and concepts that are above their independent reading levels.

Expand Imagination With Authentic Literature

Read-Aloud Books serve as the anchors of comprehension instruction and knowledge building within the program. They include high-quality, complex, authentic fiction and nonfiction trade books aligned to the Big Topics.

Read-Aloud Books feature diverse authors, illustrators, and story characters, allowing students to both see themselves reflected in the stories and gain glimpses into the lives of others.



Selection of Read-Aloud Books



Grade K, Unit 8 Super Smart

Immerse and Engage With Interactive Learning

Super Smarts are highly engaging digital read-alouds about science and social studies topics, designed for use on an interactive whiteboard.

Like the Read-Aloud Books, Super Smarts are written above grade level and expose students to complex text and vocabulary. These informational read-alouds align to the Big Topic and provide opportunities to apply comprehension strategies to nonfiction text. Teachers and students activate embedded videos, animations, and more as they move through the text together.

Delight Students With Joyful Texts

In the **Reading** strand, students gain a sense of pride and accomplishment as they read successfully thanks to the decoding skills they learn in the Word Work strand. In addition to following their favorite characters' adventures in stories about the Superkids, students read a variety of fun-filled, interesting, and relevant fiction and informational texts, including cumulatively decodable library books, poems, plays, magazines, and more, all created to motivate and inspire them as they progress through their reading journeys.

Kindergarten

Students apply their letter-sound knowledge to read decodable texts that build knowledge and enhance their vocabulary and comprehension skills. They discuss what they've learned and answer Essential Questions to solidify their knowledge base. As they gradually build automaticity in decoding, students begin to read at an appropriate rate with prosody and expression.



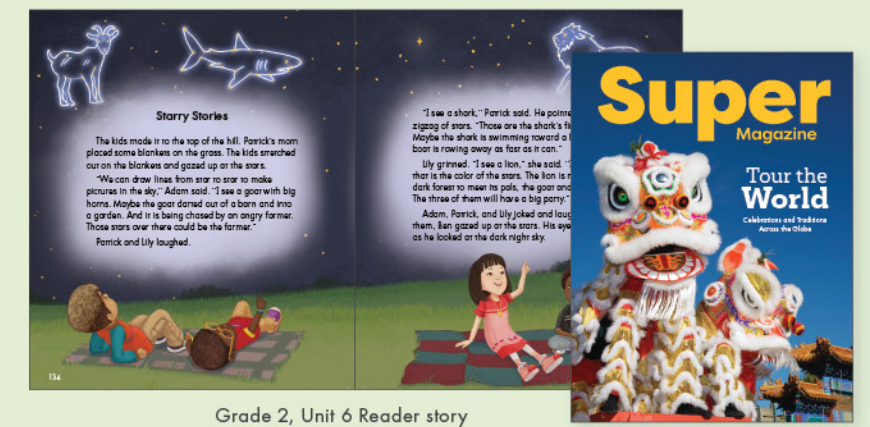
First Grade

Students use their knowledge of phonetic and structural patterns to decode and encode longer, more difficult words and build their fluency as they read increasingly complex decodable and semi-decodable text. They begin to develop a robust and varied vocabulary and expand their comprehension skills as they answer more advanced Essential Questions.



Second Grade

Students read authentic literary and informational texts that have not been controlled for decodability and apply comprehension skills to longer, more complex text. They are encouraged to ponder sophisticated Essential Questions as they build in-depth knowledge about complex Big Topics.



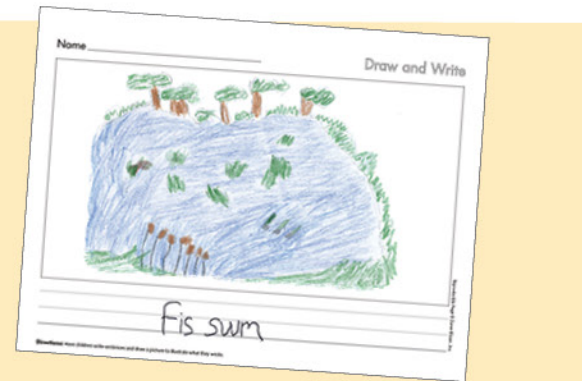
Equip Students With Tools for Self-Expression

Students learn to express themselves through daily explicit **Writing** instruction. Integrating their Word Work skills with the knowledge they have gained through listening to, reading, and discussing texts, students create compositions that increase in complexity as they progress from kindergarten to grade 2. Using a gradual release of responsibility model, teachers guide students to compose personal narratives, research reports, opinion pieces, poetry, friendly letters, and more.



Kindergarten

Students learn letter formation and sentence structure, then begin composing short narrative, opinion, and informative texts. Early in the year, students generate ideas orally or draw to express themselves. Gradually, they add words, phrases, and sentences to support their drawings.



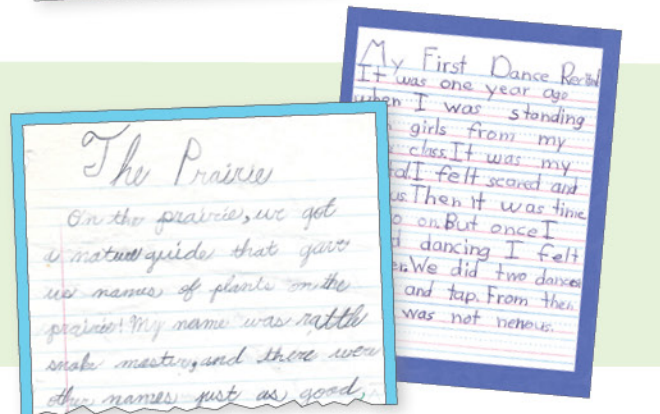
First Grade

Students develop critical skills that help them grow as writers throughout the school year. Units focus on different text types, while lessons teach and have students practice skills related to each text type, the steps of the writing process, sentence structure, and other writing mechanics.



Second Grade

Students learn to efficiently express themselves through writing, using the writing process to compose longer, more structured narratives, informational texts, opinion pieces, and more.



Putting It All Together—in a Big Way!

At the end of Units 4, 8, 12, and 16—each representing the culmination of a Big Topic—students are asked to demonstrate their acquired knowledge from all three strands via a culminating task called a **Big Topic Project**. Projects are part of **Writing** instruction, and they are designed to activate students language arts skills—they must read, write, speak, and listen to complete them. The Big Topic Projects serve as an important summative assessment of what students have learned and take various forms; students might create an art project, put on a play, compose a writing piece, or complete other tasks to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum.

As the depth of knowledge on the Big Topics increases throughout the grades, so too does the complexity of the Big Topic Projects.



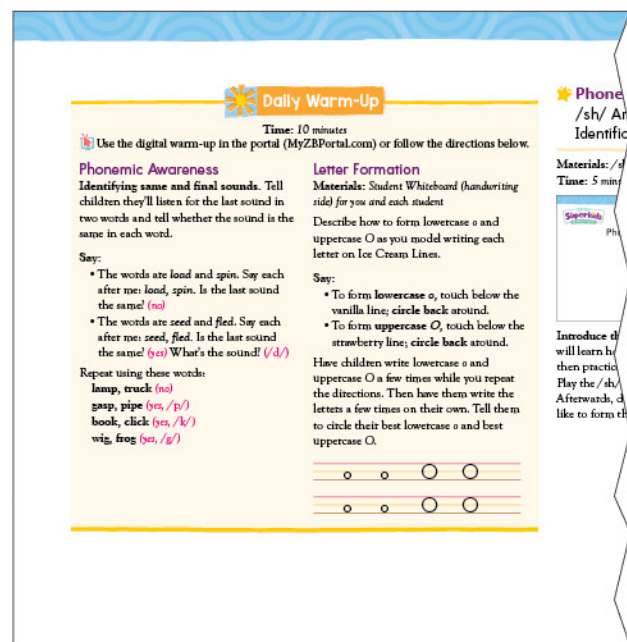
Monitor Progress to Boost Achievement

Ongoing assessment opportunities reveal students' progress and inform teachers' decisions about differentiation. The program includes numerous opportunities for both formal and informal assessment, providing everything teachers need to gain crucial insight into student progress.

Observe and Adjust Through Informal Assessment

Regular observation of students' skills reveals their areas of strength and where they may need more support. Teachers can informally assess student progress through

- observation of Daily Warm-Ups.
- classroom discussions.
- completed assignments.
- quick assessments in the Differentiated Instruction and Multilingual Learner Teacher's Guides.

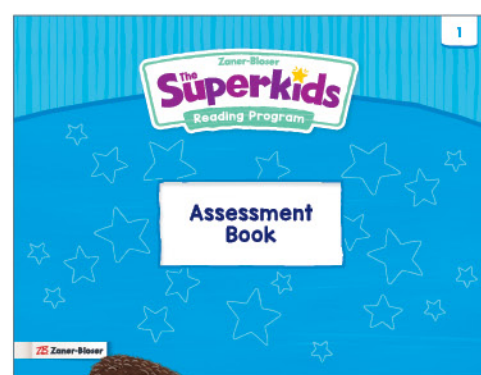


Grade 1, Unit 3 Teacher's Guide, Lesson 1

Uncover Strengths and Needs With Formal Assessment

Periodic formal assessments for all grades help teachers monitor skill progression throughout the school year. Most assessments may be taken in print form or online. Teachers can use data from these assessments to inform differentiation. Formal assessments include

- a Readiness Test for grade K.
- Beginning-of-the-Year tests for grades 1 and 2.
- Progress Tests.
- Midyear Tests.
- End of Year Tests.



Grade 1, Assessment Book 1



Meet Individual Needs With Differentiated Instruction

Differentiated resources and activities are designed to provide scaffolding for students who may need more intensive support or additional challenge with certain skills.

Small Groups Tailored to Students' Needs

Reading instruction includes built-in time for small groups. Teachers can use this time to address what is most pressing for each group by differentiating their reading and using the flexible options provided for instruction.

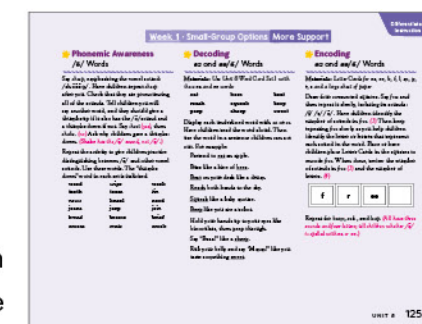
Differentiated Reading

In *Superkids*, all students read grade-level text with varying degrees of complexity. Decodable Libraries in grades K and 1 and Book Club in grade 2 provide books with text complexity suited to students who need more support, on-level support, or more challenge.



Differentiated Skill Instruction

Students also spend time in small groups working on additional differentiated instruction activities included in the back of the Teacher's Guide. Flexible options help teachers provide more support, on-level support, and more challenge.



Differentiated Tips At Point Of Use

Tips in Teacher's Guides provide suggestions for students who need more support, need more challenge, or are multilingual learners to target specific skills.

Differentiate

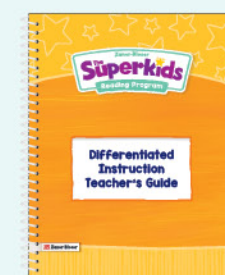
More Support: Before children complete items 2-4, help them find the words *seed*, *eat*, and *heat* on the spelling list. Read each word with them and have them underline it. Tell them they should write each underlined word below the picture it tells about.

Grade-Specific Resources to Maximize Every Student's Potential

The Differentiated Resource Kit includes the two guides below as well as a variety of manipulative resources.

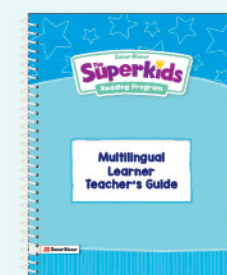
Differentiated Instruction Teacher's Guides

Guides include activities and resources for quick assessments, targeting specific skills, reteaching information, and providing more challenge.



Multilingual Learner Teacher's Guides

Guides include resources and activities to help multilingual learners to draw upon their unique strengths and bolster their specific areas of challenge.



COMPONENTS



Everything You Need to Create Thriving Readers

Superkids materials are designed to be user-friendly and comprehensive, making it easier for teachers to make every minute of their language arts block count.

Teacher Materials

- Teacher's Guides
- Program Guide
- Assessments Books
- Teacher Resource Books
- Letter Formation Guide
- MyZBPortal.com (Online Access)



Teacher Materials with Teacher's Guide

Classroom Materials

- Read-Aloud Package
- Classroom Resource Kit
- Big Book (Grade K only)
- Differentiated Resources Kit



Differentiated Resources Kit



Classroom Resource Kit

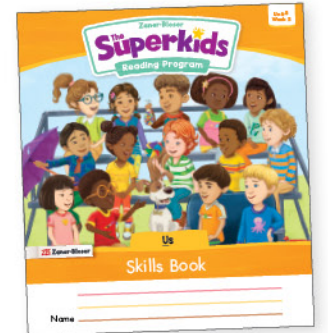


“This reading program has everything you could want to **BRIGHTEN UP** your language arts block!”

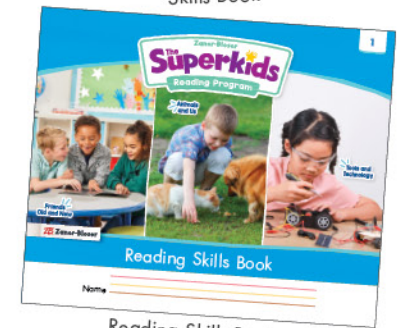
—Mary Littlepage, PhD Candidate and Former Teacher, KY

Student Materials

Component	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2
Skills Books	★		
Word Work Skills Books		★	★
Reading Skills Books		★	★
Readers		★	★
Super-Duper Magazines		★	
Super Magazines			★
Decodable Library Books	★	★	
Book Club Books			★
Superkids World (Online Access)	★	★	★



Skills Book



Reading Skills Book



Reader

DIGITAL

More to Explore Online

Teachers and students can access additional resources at MyZBPortal.com. Teachers can find convenient tools, on-demand professional development materials, digital versions of print materials, and more online. Students can access Superkids World for games, interactive books and magazines, assignments, digital assessments, and more.



Zaner-Bloser
The Superkids
Reading Program



Growing and learning with the Superkids by their side, students develop the literacy skills they need to be successful in grade 3 and beyond. Spark motivation, empower educators, and maximize outcomes with *The Superkids Reading Program*.

Visit zaner-bloser.com to learn more!



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