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Introduction

Comprehension is the goal of every reading task. The *Read and Succeed: Comprehension* series can help lay the foundation of comprehension skills that are essential for a lifetime of learning. The series was written specifically to provide the purposeful practice students need in order to succeed in reading comprehension. The more students practice, the more confident and capable they can become.

Why You Need This Book

- **It is standards based.** The skill practice pages are aligned to the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) standards. (See page 7.)
- **It has focused lessons.** Each practice page covers a key comprehension skill. Skills are addressed multiple times to provide several opportunities for mastery.
- **It employs advanced organization.** Having students encounter the question page first gives them a “heads up” when they approach the text, thereby enhancing comprehension and promoting critical-thinking abilities.
- **It has appropriate reading levels.** All passages have a grade level calculated based on the Shell Education leveling system, which was developed under the guidance of Dr. Timothy Rasinski, along with the staff at Shell Education.
- **It has an interactive whiteboard-compatible Teacher Resource CD.** This can be used to enhance instruction and support literacy skills.

How to Use This Book

First, determine what sequence will best benefit your students. Work through the book in order (as the skills become progressively more difficult) to cover all key skills. For reinforcement of specific skills, select skills as needed.

Then determine what instructional setting you will use. See below for suggestions for a variety of instructional settings:

Whole-Class or Small-Group Instruction	Independent Practice or Centers	Homework
Read and discuss the Skill Focus. Write the name of the skill on the board.	Create a folder for each student. Include a copy of the selected skill practice page and passage.	Give each student a copy of the selected skill practice page and passage.
Read and discuss responses to each question. Read the text when directed (as a group, in pairs, or individually).	Have students complete the skill practice page. Remind them to begin by reading the Skill Focus and to read the passage when directed.	Have students complete the skill practice page. Remind them to begin by reading the Skill Focus and to read the passage when directed.
Read and discuss the Critical Thinking question. Allow time for discussion before having students write their responses.	Collect the skill practice pages and check students' answers. Or, provide each student with a copy of the answer key (pages 138–149).	Collect the skill practice pages and check students' answers. Or, provide each student with a copy of the answer key (pages 138–149).

Prior Knowledge

Skill Focus



Before you read a text, think about what you know about that topic. This will help you understand what you read.

1. On the chart, write words and phrases that tell what you already know about bats and birds.

bats	both	birds
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. Read the text. Think about how bats and birds are alike. Add words or phrases to the middle of the chart.

Critical Thinking



Tell how you are like a bat.

Bats Are Not Birds

Bats are not birds. Bats are mammals. Bats have fur on their bodies. Bats breathe through lungs. Bats are born alive. They drink milk from their mothers. Birds are not mammals. Birds have feathers on their bodies. Birds breathe through air sacs. Birds do not drink milk.

Bats fly at night to look for food. Bats eat fruit, fish, and nectar. Birds fly in the daytime to find food. Birds eat worms, nuts, and seeds. Bats sleep upside down in caves. Birds sleep sitting down in nests.



Thank You, Jo!

Jo lives in an apartment with her mom and dad. Jo likes to help people.

Jo feels happy when she helps her mom. She takes out the trash for her mom. Her mom says, "Thank you, Jo!"

Jo helps her dad wash the car. They have fun together. Her dad says, "Thank you, Jo!"

Jo also helps Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones lives alone next door. Jo picks up the mail for Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones gives Jo a big hug and says, "Thank you, Jo!"

