

Elementary Reading Programs

The Elementary DI reading program consists of six programs. Reading Mastery I and II reach children to read. Reading Mastery III and IV teach children to learn history, geography and science from text. Reading Mastery V and VI teach children to analyze Literature.

Some students are in **Fast Cycle** or **Horizons** reading programs. These are the same as the Reading Mastery programs, except that they move twice as fast. Students in Fast Cycle I complete all the material in Reading Mastery I in about half a year. Similarly, Fast Cycle II and Horizons III and IV cover all of the material in Reading Mastery II, III and IV, in about half the number of lessons. To understand what your child is learning in these programs, you will need to look at the description for the corresponding Reading Mastery program and double the lesson number for your child's group. For example, if your child is in Fast Cycle II, Lesson 30, you should look at Reading Mastery II, Lesson 60, to get an idea of what is being taught.

“What did you learn in school today?” Information for Parents

Reading Mastery II
Learning New Words

By the end of this level, students will be able to read several thousand words. They read stories, practice sounds and words, and learn to follow written directions. They also learn to recognize capital letters. (Capital letters are not used at first, because we don't want to confuse children with more than one symbol for each sound. *A* and *a* may look like different letters to a beginning reader.) Throughout RM II, students work on reading faster and with fewer mistakes. The take-home worksheets now have written directions and questions which the students read independently. Until lesson 86, stories and take homes are written in a special typeface designed to prevent children from confusing letters that look similar, like *h* and *n*.

Lessons 1 - 39

Students review sounds and words taught in RM I. They also learn some new words and practice words and sentences. In a typical lesson, the group will read part of a story together. Then the teacher calls on individual students to read one sentence each. This gives students a chance to show off their reading skills.

Lessons 40 - 80

Many new, important reading skills are taught. Students learn to recognize silent *e*. They will be able to tell the difference between words like *mad* and *made* or *rat* and *rate*. They learn to read words with special sound combinations like *ou*, *al* and *ar*.

Lessons 80 - 160

As children become stronger readers, they can recognize many words by sight, without sounding them out first. This means that teachers can start to focus on content. The stories become longer and more complicated. In lessons 146-160, a girl named Jean dreams that she is stuck in a strange place, where a wizard tells her she must learn 16 rules before she can leave. The first rule she learns is “All little crumps are mean.” Students learn to say the rules and “remind” Jean about the rules when she forgets. They also use the rules to predict what will happen next. The rules are silly, but the skill of learning and using rules is extremely valuable. In the next level, RM III, they will learn rules about more important things, like the properties of air and water.