

Empower Reading: Grades 6-8, Comprehension & Vocabulary

Program Description

Empower Reading: Grades 6-8, Comprehension & Vocabulary is intended for students in grades 6 to 8 who have difficulty acquiring reading comprehension skills. The goal of this module is to encourage students to become active readers who explore word meanings, make good predictions and connections with what they know, identify important events or ideas in texts, stop and clarify when confused, utilize text signals, activate text maps, and monitor and evaluate their own understanding as they read texts.

This program teaches students five specific comprehension strategies for understanding fiction and non-fiction texts. It is recommended that students who participate in this program possess decoding skills that are equivalent to or above a mid-grade 4 level in order to manage the reading levels of the texts. Over the course of the 70 lessons, a primary focus is on expository texts in an effort to build vocabulary and content knowledge as well as teach text structural knowledge.

The vocabulary words are carefully chosen to target academic words that are likely to appear frequently in a variety of texts and in the written and oral language of mature language users. The cognitive strategy instruction, together with attributional retraining components that are woven into the dialogue steps, work to facilitate successful strategy acquisition and application and encourage generalization of the skills and strategies to other content areas. The students gain experience in applying the skills and strategies learned in the program through daily reading of texts.

The Empower Reading: Grades 6-8, Comprehension & Vocabulary kit includes all of the materials necessary to implement the program:

Instructional Materials

- **Teacher Instruction Manual Binder.** This manual provides the teacher with the scripts and dialogue needed for each lesson of the program. Included are program goals, a scope and sequence, introductory and prototype lessons, consolidation activities and much more. A USB key is provided that includes full colour copies of various instructional support materials.

Student Materials

- **Student Workbook.** The Student Workbook contains a variety of daily activities that support the acquisition and consolidation of all program content including all of the new vocabulary as well as the five comprehension strategies.
- **Student Reader.** The Student Reader offers a selection of engaging texts for the students to practice applying their skills and strategies. The stories include illustrations and have been carefully written to include ample opportunities for further vocabulary development and scaffolded use of the comprehension strategies.

Support Materials



- **Reading Strategies Board.** The strategies board lists the five comprehension strategies and the associated dialogue for each: Predicting, Activating the WordWeb, Clarifying, Evaluating through Questioning, and Summarizing.
- **WordWeb Dry Erase Board.** This double-sided dry erase poster is used by the teacher and students as together, they construct the meanings for unfamiliar vocabulary words.
- **Plot Graph and Text Structure Boards.** There are three double-sided dry erase boards that support students in their understanding of fiction texts and their structure, as well as five common text structures used in non-fiction texts.
- **Program Posters**
Additional program posters support the use of the strategies and skills taught in the program by providing students with quick access to the materials they need.