

Building LANGUAGE ARTS


Brick by Brick



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Click here to watch
Ruth discuss the 8 components
that make up English Language
Arts in our video on:  **YouTube**



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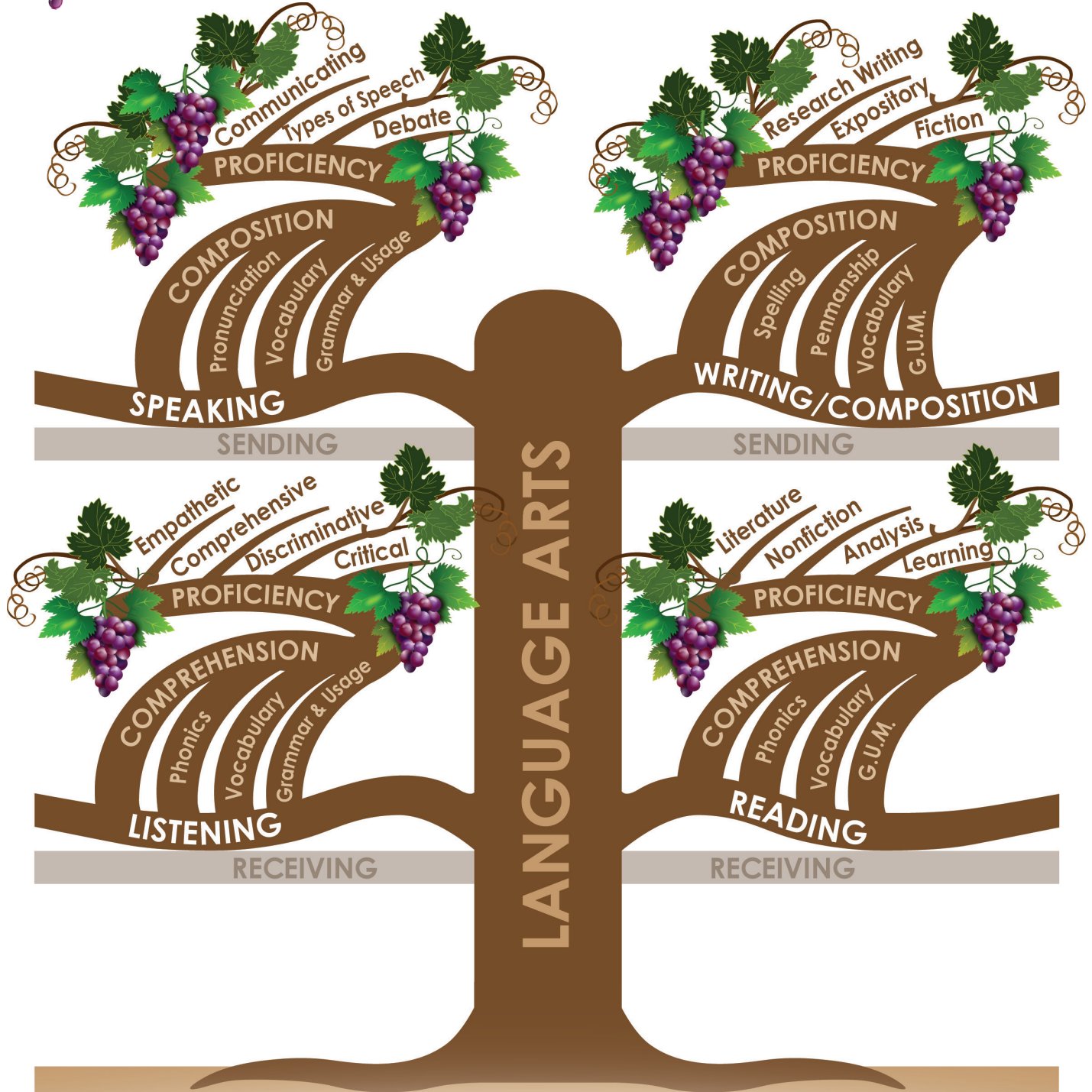
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Notes: _____



Vocabulary:

Proficiency—the degree of competence a student has in understanding and creating written and oral messages.

Language Arts—traditionally, includes reading, composition, and speech, giving students a thorough proficiency in using English (also called English/Language Arts — ELA).

Language Arts Curriculum—an umbrella term for curricula that include the topics of phonics/reading; grammar, usage, mechanics (G.U.M.); vocabulary; comprehension; penmanship; spelling; composition; literature analysis; and also speech and listening skills.

Phonics/Reading Instruction—teaching that focuses on letter sounds and decoding skills of written words.

Penmanship—the skill of writing by hand by manuscript (printing) or cursive method.

Spelling—learning that letters represent sounds and how they fit together in specific ways to make words. Students learn spelling rules and the exceptions.

Vocabulary—individual words which represent and communicate distinct meanings. As children become fluent, vocabulary will become more plentiful, nuanced, and diverse.

Grammar—specifically refers to the building blocks and rules governing language: parts of speech, sentence structure, and types of sentences.

Usage—using individual words and phrases by applying proper conventions.

Mechanics—refers to proper usage of punctuation and capitalization.

Composition—traditionally, creating paragraphs and placing them together in different arrangements to address different audiences for different purposes.

Comprehension—showing you understand the messages you received. This includes answering fact-based questions which ask students to state facts or summarize: “Who, What, When, and Where.” Multi-level comprehension questions will include higher level reasoning such as, “What If,” “How,” and “Why.”

Literature Analysis—understanding how the author crafts the story. This includes character development, suspense and plot, and the use of literary devices like personification or foreshadowing. Another aspect is exposure to and developing an appreciation of different types of literature: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography, and so on.

Notes: _____



Choosing Language Arts Curricula:

the F-A-M-I-L-Y Way

F — Faith/Philosophy

What role does your belief system play in ELA? What is your philosophy of language? What do you feel is the purpose of communication skills? What is your vision for your homeschool?

A — Approaches

What do you believe about how children learn and become proficient ELA users? Do you prefer the Charlotte Mason approach? Traditional Textbook? Classical? What types of literature and content will your child read?

M — Money

What is your budget? What educational investment is necessary?

I — Individuals

How does your child learn (by seeing, hearing, doing)? What motivates your child to learn? Do you have a child with specific learning challenges? What is your child's language proficiency?

L — Life

What season of life is your family in: preschoolers, young student, high schoolers, etc.? Do you want a curriculum to teach multiple children at one time? What special life events—short-term or long-term—are factors in your homeschooling?

Y — You

What are your time priorities/limitations? How much structure do YOU need? How confident are you in teaching Language Arts?

Notes: _____

Building LANGUAGE ARTS

Brick by Brick



Putting it All Together:

Subject-Oriented Structure

☐ All-in-One:

- Examples
- Benefits

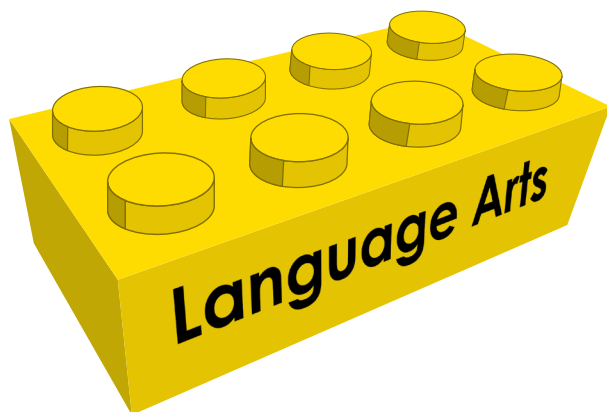
☐ Partial:

- Examples
- Benefits

☐ Individual:

- Examples
- Benefits

Building Language Arts out of 8 Basic Parts:



Build Your Brick: _____



Phonics/Reading

Handwriting/Penmanship

Spelling

Vocabulary

G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage & Mechanics)

Composition

Reading Comprehension

Literary Analysis

Building Brick by Brick

LANGUAGE ARTS



Overview of Composition Skills:

PDR — Plan, Do, Review

Plan:

☐ Prewriting Steps

- Purpose
 - 4 Basic Writing Goals: Narrative, Expository, Descriptive, Persuasive
 - Older Students: Literary, Research
- Audience

☐ Gather Content

- Brainstorming
- Researching
- Notetaking

Do:

☐ Organize

- Outline
- Presentation
- Topic Sentences

☐ Draft (Steps in order of thought process)

- Thesis/Main Point
- Body (the “meat” or key points)
- Introduction
- Conclusion

Review:

- ☐ Purpose and Audience filtered
- ☐ Content, Format, and Delivery supports goals
- ☐ Final Presentation

(PDRA) Assess

- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Curriculum
- ☐ Goal: Self-directed Assessment



LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART

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	LANGUAGE ARTS Programs	Grades														Religious Content		Teacher Involvement		
		PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Christian	N/Secular	Low	Med	High
1.	Abeka Language Arts	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•
2.	AOP LIFEPAK Language Arts		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	
3.	Calvert Language Arts		•	•	•	•	•										•		•	
4.	Christian Light Language Arts			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		
5.	Climbing to Good English			•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•			•	
6.	Discover! ELA			•	•	•	•	•	•								•		•	
7.	English for the Thoughtful Child				•	•	•									•				•
8.	English Lessons Through Literature			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•		•	
9.	Essentials in Writing / Essentials in Literature			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
10.	First Language Lessons for WTM / Writing w/ Ease			•	•	•	•	•									•			•
11.	Grammar Galaxy/ Fast Grammar			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
12.	Grammar for the WTM / Writing with Skill							•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
13.	Jolly Phonics / Jolly Grammar / Jolly Literacy		•	•	•	•	•	•	•								•		•	
14.	Learning Language Arts Through Literature (LLATL)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
15.	Lightning Literature & Composition			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
16.	Language Lessons (Cottage Press)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
17.	Language Lessons for a Living Education			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
18.	Language / Writing Lessons (My Father's World)				•	•	•	•	•							•			•	
19.	Life of Fred Language Arts											•	•	•	•		•	•		
20.	Living Verse (LA in Poetry)			•	•	•	•	•	•							•			•	
21.	McGuffey's New Eclectic Readers (Everyday Ed.)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
22.	Moving Beyond the Page				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		•
23.	myView Literacy / myPerspectives (Savvas)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•
24.	Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum									•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
25.	Primary Arts of Language/Writing (IEW)		•	•	•												•			•
26.	Primary/Intermediate/Adv Language Lessons				•	•	•	•	•	•						•				•
27.	Purposeful Design Language Arts		•	•	•	•	•	•								•				•
28.	Queen Homeschool Language Lessons	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•
29.	Grammar and Writing (Hake)					•	•	•	•	•	•						•		•	
30.	Shiller Learning Language Arts	•	•	•	•	•	•										•			•
31.	Shurley English			•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•			•
32.	Starline Press English					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
33.	Thoughtful Learning ELA (formerly Write Source)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
34.	Total Language Plus Guides					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
35.	Voyages in English (2018)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•		•	
36.	Writing Strands (MasterBooks)							•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	
37.	Writing Through History (Write From History)			•	•	•	•	•								•				•

This chart was assembled by Rainbow Resource Curriculum Consultants and is intended to be a comparative tool based on our own understanding of these programs and is not necessarily reflective of publishers' opinions. Some designations are "best fit," not absolute.

- Programs included on chart provide instruction in three or more language arts subject areas. Some programs will provide practice or exposure in a subject area, but not direct instruction; these may not be considered subject "coverage" per the chart.
- Not all subjects in these programs will be emphasized equally; depending on your child and situation, you may find you need supplemental material in some areas.

LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART

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	Subjects Covered								Approach					Notes
	Phonics	Reading Skills	Literary Analysis	Writing & Comp	Grammar	Spelling	Vocab	Hand-writing	Trad	C/M	Classical	Unit Study	Other	
1.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					Grades PK-6 Language Arts; 7-12 English.
2.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•					Separate Literature courses at upper levels.
3.	•	•		•	•	•		•	•					Worktexts with answer key.
4.	•			•	•	•	•	•	•					Add Christian Light Reading for complete ELA.
5.	•	•		•	•		•		•					Complements <i>Pathway Readers</i> or use independently.
6.		•		•	•	•	•	•	•					Teaches to all learning styles. Standards based.
7.		•		•	•					•				
8.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				
9.			•	•	•		•		•					Literature available only for Grades 7-12.
10.		•		•	•						•			
11.		•		•	•	•	•						•	Sequential by volumes; High School Refresher available.
12.			•	•	•						•			Mastery-based; flexible pathway.
13.	•			•	•	•	•		•					
14.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				Blue / Red are phonics based.
15.		•	•	•	•		•		•	•				Lower levels are more CM-inspired.
16.		•		•	•					•	•			Upper levels are Classical.
17.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				Grades 11 & 12... Coming Soon.
18.		•		•	•					•				Use together for complete ELA program.
19.		•			•	•							•	Use all 4 books each high school year.
20.		•	•	•	•		•	•		•				Reading & Spelling Instruction not included.
21.		•	•	•		•	•			•				
22.		•	•	•	•	•	•					•		Single Novel or theme studies.
23.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					Early grades focus on phonological awareness, phonics, decoding, and fluency. Online resources.
24.		•	•	•	•		•		•					Worktext format.
25.	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•					Digital teacher support.
26.		•		•	•		•			•				Original Emma Serl reprints.
27.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					Teacher e-book option.
28.	•			•	•					•				
29.				•	•	•	•		•					Involves incremental learning & continual review.
30.	•	•		•	•								•	Montessori approach.
31.				•	•		•				•			Grammar jingles. Scripted teaching.
32.		•	•	•	•	•	•		•					Literature studies at grade 5, 7 & HS only.
33.		•	•	•	•		•		•					Free Online TG; Aligns to standards; Emphasizes writing. Remedial/ESL option available.
34.		•	•	•	•	•	•			•				Literature guide format, use 3-5 guides/year.
35.				•	•		•		•					
36.		•	•	•									•	
37.		•		•	•	•	•	•		•				Correlates with any 4-year chronological history.

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- Language arts skills are approached differently within the educational approaches. Traditional and Classical have systematic instruction in various subjects and often separates courses. Charlotte Mason (and Unit Studies) provides integrated language skills based on models.
- These programs may be found in other sections of our catalog, based on their primary emphasis.



PHONICS CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART

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	PHONICS Programs	Grades							Religious Content		Price Range			Approach			
		PK	K	1	2	3	4+	Remedial	Christian	N/Secular	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	Trad	CM	Class	Seq
1.	ABC See, Hear, Do	•	•	•	•	•				•		•		•			
2.	Abeka Phonics	•	•	•					•				•	•			
3.	Adventures in Phonics		•	•	•				•		•			•			
4.	All About Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•			
5.	Alpha-Phonics	•	•	•	•			•		•	•			•			
6.	American Language Series		•						•				•	•			
7.	BJU Phonics & English			•					•				•	•			
8.	Easy-for-Me Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•			
9.	First Start Reading (Memoria Press)		•	•	•					•	•					•	
10.	Foundational Phonics	•	•	•	•	•				•		•		•			
11.	Foundational Reading (Savvas Essentials)		•	•	•					•	•			•			
12.	Foundations Phonics (Master Books)		•	•					•		•			•			
13.	From Phonics to Reading		•	•	•	•				•		•		•			
14.	Generations Phonics	•	•	•					•		•			•			
15.	Happy Cheetah		•	•	•					•		•					•
16.	Hooked on Phonics (Learn to Read)	•	•	•	•					•		•		•			
17.	Horizons Phonics & Reading		•	•	•	•			•			•		•			
18.	I Can Read It!	•	•	•	•					•	•				•		
19.	Jolly Phonics	•	•	•	•					•		•		•			
20.	Learning to Read (Christian Light Education)			•					•		•			•			
21.	LLATL Blue & Red		•	•	•				•			•			•		
22.	McOmber Readers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•			
23.	Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•					•	
24.	Pathway Reading		•	•	•				•		•			•			
25.	Phonics for Reading & Spelling		•	•	•					•	•			•			
26.	Phonics Museum		•	•					•				•			•	
27.	Phonics Pathways	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•			
28.	Plaid Phonics		•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•			
29.	Preventing Academic Failure (PAF)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•					•
30.	PRIDE Reading & Spelling	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•			
31.	Primary Phonics		•	•	•	•	•			•	•			•			
32.	Reading and Spelling Pure and Simple		•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•			
33.	Reading Eggs	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•			
34.	Reading Lesson (The)	•	•	•	•					•	•			•			
35.	Reading and Spelling Through Literature		•	•	•	•	•		Bk 4	•	•				•		
36.	Recipe for Reading		•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•					•
37.	Right Brain Phonics			•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•			
38.	Sound Bytes Reading: Teach Anyone to Read		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•			
39.	Steps to Reading	•	•	•	•					•	•						•
40.	Teach a Child to Read with Children's Books		•	•	•					•	•			•			
41.	Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons	•	•	•	•					•	•			•			
42.	TouchPhonics		•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•			
43.	Words Their Way Classroom		•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•			
44.	Write to Read (Study Time Publishers)	•	•	•					•		•			•			
45.	Writing Road to Reading		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•						•

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PHONICS CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART

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	Teacher Involvement			Skills Covered				Learning Styles				Notes
	Low	Med	High	Spelling	G.U.M.	Reading	Handwriting	Aud	Visual	Kinesth	Multi	
1.			•			•	•				•	
2.			•			•	•				•	
3.		•				•					•	Flashcards & readers available for Level A.
4.			•			•					•	Orton Gillingham (OG) methodology.
5.			•			•					•	Add additional readers for practice.
6.			•	•		•	•				•	Teacher materials & songs on USB.
7.			•		•	•					•	Kindergarten phonics taught in <i>Focus on Fives</i> .
8.		•				•					•	Works well with right-brained learners.
9.		•				•	•				•	
10.		•				•	•				•	Orton Gillingham method. Flashcards sold separately.
11.			•			•	•				•	Online Teacher Resources.
12.		•				•	•				•	Semester course.
13.		•		•		•	•				•	Optional Booster Books: writing, vocab, and compreh.
14.			•				•				•	Teaches Dolch Sight Words. Grade 1 used concurrently with God's Big Story Reading Program (2nd sem).
15.		•		•	•	•	•				•	Teacher instruction in workbooks.
16.		•				•					•	Online videos and bonus content included.
17.		•			•	•			•			
18.		•				•			•			Parent instruction found in the Word List Book.
19.		•				•	•				•	Revised 2023 Ed. aligns to The Science of Reading.
20.			•			•					•	Flashcards and Sound Slider available.
21.		•		•	•	•	•				•	E-Books available. Supplemental Read Aloud Library.
22.			•			•	•		•			
23.			•			•					•	Optional audio and flashcards.
24.		•				•			•			Continues through Grade 8.
25.			•	•	•	•	•				•	
26.			•	•		•	•				•	Adds art appreciation.
27.			•	•	•	•					•	Optional Reading Pathways: eye tracking exercises.
28.		•				•			•			Continues through Grade 6.
29.		•		•	•	•	•				•	Orton Gillingham methodology.
30.			•	•		•					•	Orton Gillingham methodology.
31.		•				•	•		•			
32.			•	•		•	•		•			Optional workbooks.
33.	•			•		•					•	Online Program: 1 year access for 1-4 students. Includes printable worksheets, or purchase print workbooks.
34.			•			•					•	Supplements available from publisher.
35.			•	•		•					•	Incorporates Elson Readers. Book 4 Christian.
36.			•	•		•	•		•			Vocabulary included.
37.			•			•					•	Optional Readers; use with Brain Integration Manual.
38.			•	•		•	•		•			Based on Orton Gillingham phonograms.
39.			•			•					•	Flexible pacing. Additional readers recommended.
40.			•			•					•	Use with your favorite children's books.
41.			•			•					•	Phonics manual that teaches basic phonics.
42.			•	•		•				•		
43.		•		•		•					•	Online word sorts.
44.			•	•		•	•		•			Self-paced phonics.
45.			•			•			•			Spalding method.



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LITERATURE GUIDES COMPARISON CHART

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LITERATURE Guides	Grades				Format & Features								
	K-3	3-6	6-8	9-12	Components			Reproducible Std't Pages	Christian Content	Standards- Based	Tests	Pre/Post Reading Activities	Author/Title Background
					Tchr	Std't	Comb						
1. AP Lit. Guides (Prestwick House)				•	•			•		•		•	•
2. Edcon (Classics & Shakespeare) ②	•	•					•	•				•	•
3. Great Works Guides	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	•
4. Literature Disguised as Fun	•	•	•	•	•							•	•
5. Literature Kits (Novel Study)	•	•	•	•			•	•		•		•	•
6. Memoria Press Literature	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•
7. Moving Beyond the Page	•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•
8. Novel Units		•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•
9. Novel-Ties	•	•	•	•			•	•				•	•
10. Progeny Press	•	•	•	•			•	•	•			•	•
11. Ready Readers	•	•	•	•	•							•	•
12. Reflections: Student Response Journals for the Classics			•	•		•		•			•	•	•
13. Rigorous Reading		•	•	•			•	•		•		•	•
14. Sneakerblossom: Lit. Guides / Quick Guides		•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•
15. Total Language Plus		•	•	•			•		•			•	•
16. Veritas Comprehension Guides	•	•	•	•			•	•	•			•	•
17. Walking to Wisdom			•	•	•	•			•			•	•

② Great for struggling readers.

Comb = Teacher materials and student activities combined in one.

	LITERATURE Guides	Language Arts (ELA) or Other Cross-Curricular Skills Covered											
		Reading Comp.	Discussion Questions	Literary Analysis	Critical Thinking	Grammar	Writing/ Comp	Vocab	Spelling	Graphic Organizers	Math/ Science Connect	Craft/ Hands-On Projects	Journaling
1.	AP Lit. Guides (Prestwick House)	•	•	•	•		•	•					
2.	Edcon (Classics & Shakespeare) 🌿	•		•	•			•					
3.	Great Works Guides	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
4.	Literature Disguised as Fun		•	•	•								
5.	Literature Kits Novel Study	•	•	•	•		•	•		•			
6.	Memoria Press Literature	•	•	•	•		•	•		•			
7.	Moving Beyond the Page	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.	Novel Units	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	
9.	Novel-Ties	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•		
10.	Progeny Press	•	•	•	•		•	•					
11.	Ready Readers	•	•	•	•		•			•			
12.	Reflections: Student Response Journals for the Classics		•	•	•		•						•
13.	Rigorous Reading	•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	•
14.	Sneakerblossom: Lit. Guides / Quick Guides	•	•	•			•						
15.	Total Language Plus	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
16.	Veritas Comprehension Guides	•	•	•	•		•	•				•	
17.	Walking to Wisdom	•	•	•	•		•	•					•

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