

# Building

## LANGUAGE ARTS

*Brick by Brick*



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### Questions? Just Ask...

Our friendly consultant team is here to answer your questions, M-F, 8:30-5 CT.



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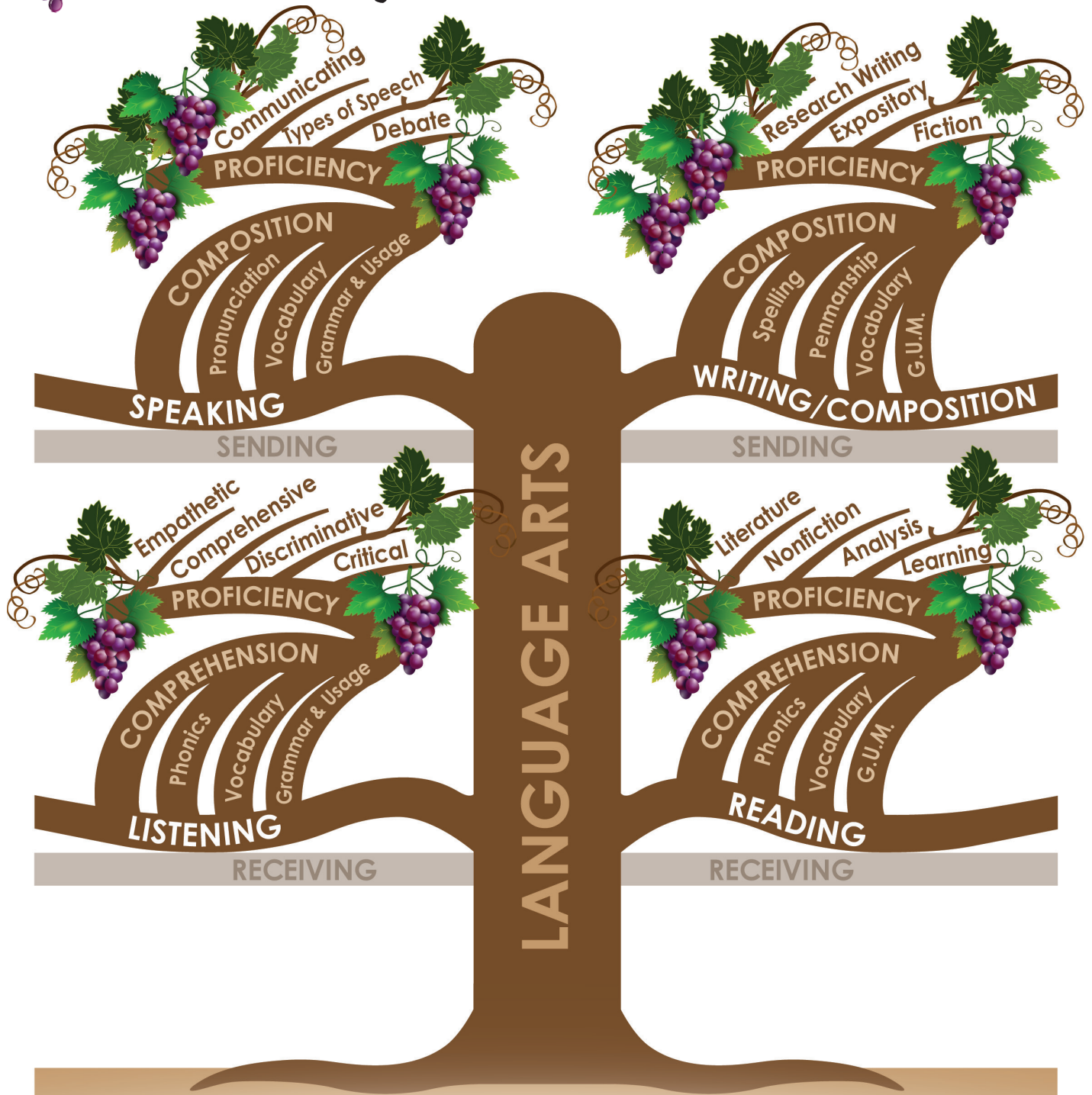
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# Cultivating LANGUAGE ARTS

## Language Proficiency Diagram:



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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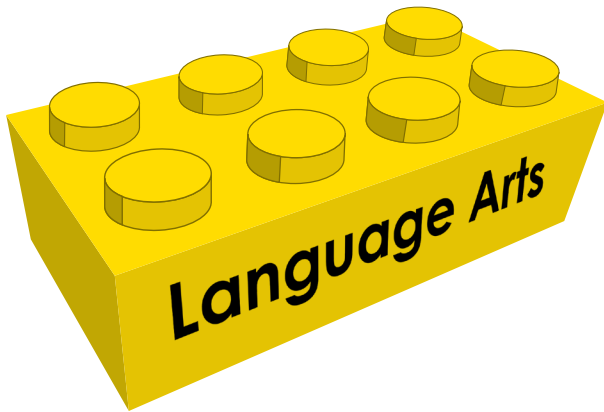


## Putting it All Together:

### 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 LANGUAGE ARTS

Brick by Brick



## 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

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#### Reviewing Order:



# 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.	Eclectic Foundations		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•			•	
8.	English for the Thoughtful Child				•	•	•									•			•	
9.	English Lessons Through Literature			•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•		•	
10.	Essentials in Writing / Essentials in Literature			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		
11.	First Language Lessons for WTM / Writing w/ Ease			•	•	•	•	•									•		•	
12.	Grammar Galaxy			•	•	•	•	•	•	•							•		•	
13.	Grammar for the WTM / Writing with Skill							•	•	•	•						•		•	
14.	Jolly Phonics / Jolly Grammar		•	•	•	•	•	•	•								•		•	
15.	Learning Language Arts Through Literature (LLATL)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
16.	Lightning Literature & Composition			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	
17.	Language Lessons (Cottage Press)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
18.	Language Lessons for a Living Education			•	•	•	•	•	•							•			•	
19.	Language Lessons for Today (My Father's World)				•	•	•	•	•							•			•	
20.	Life of Fred Language Arts											•	•	•	•	•		•		
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/Interm/Advanced Language Lessons				•	•	•	•	•	•						•			•	
27.	Purposeful Design Language Arts		•	•	•	•										•			•	
28.	Queen Homeschool Language Lessons	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	
29.	Grammar and Writing (formerly Saxon)					•	•	•	•	•							•		•	
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.	•	•		•	•	•			•					Uses McGuffey readers.
8.		•		•	•				•					
9.		•	•	•	•	•	•		•					
10.			•	•	•			•						Literature available only for Grades 7-12.
11.		•		•	•					•				
12.		•		•	•	•							•	Sequential by volumes.
13.			•	•	•					•				Mastery-based; flexible pathway.
14.	•			•	•	•	•	•						
15.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					Blue / Red are phonics based.
16.		•	•	•	•		•		•	•				Lower levels are more CM-inspired.
17.		•		•	•				•	•				Upper levels are Classical.
18.		•		•	•	•	•		•					
19.		•		•	•				•					Revised & expanded versions of Emma Serl books.
20.		•		•	•								•	Could use with advanced middle schoolers.
21.		•	•	•		•	•		•					
22.		•	•	•	•	•	•					•		Novel 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.				•	•	•	•		•					
30.	•	•		•	•								•	Montessori approach.
31.				•	•		•			•				Jingles for grammar rules.
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	\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	Basic	Intensive
1.	Abeka Phonics	•	•	•					•			•			•
2.	Adventures in Phonics		•	•	•				•		•			•	
3.	All About Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•			•
4.	Alpha-Phonics	•	•	•	•					•	•			•	
5.	American Language Series		•							•		•		•	
6.	BJU Phonics & English / K5 Beginnings		•	•					•			•		•	
7.	Easy for Me Reading		•	•	•	•		•		•			•	•	
8.	First Start Reading (Memoria Press)		•	•	•					•	•			•	
9.	Foundational Phonics	•	•	•	•	•				•		•		•	
10.	Foundations Phonics (Masterbooks)		•	•					•		•			•	
11.	From Phonics to Reading		•	•	•	•				•	•			•	
12.	Happy Cheetah		•	•	•					•		•		•	
13.	Happy Phonics	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•			•	
14.	Hooked on Phonics (Learn to Read)	•	•	•	•					•		•		•	
15.	Horizons Phonics & Reading		•	•	•	•			•			•		•	
16.	I Can Read It!	•	•	•	•					•	•			•	
17.	Jolly Phonics	•	•	•	•					•	•	•		•	
18.	Learning to Read (CLE)			•					•		•			•	
19.	LLATL Blue & Red		•	•	•				•			•		•	
20.	MaxScholar	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•		•
21.	MCP Plaid Phonics		•	•	•	•	•			•	•			•	
22.	McOmber Readers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	
23.	Ordinary Parent's Guide to Teaching Reading	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•				•
24.	Pathway Reading		•	•	•	•	•		•		•			•	
25.	Phonics for Reading & Spelling		•	•	•					•	•				•
26.	Phonics Pathways	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	
27.	Preventing Academic Failure (PAF)	•	•	•	•	•				•		•			•
28.	Primary Phonics		•	•	•	•	•			•	•			•	
29.	Reading and Spelling Pure and Simple		•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	
30.	Reading Eggs	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	
31.	Reading Lesson (The)	•	•	•	•					•	•			•	
32.	Reading and Spelling Through Literature		•	•	•	•	•		•		•				•
33.	Reading Reflex		•	•	•	•		•		•	•			•	
34.	Recipe for Reading		•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•			•
35.	Right Brain Phonics			•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	
36.	Sound Bytes Reading: Teach Anyone to Read		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•				•
37.	Teach a Child to Read with Children's Books		•	•	•	•				•	•			•	
38.	Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons	•	•	•	•	•				•	•			•	
39.	TouchPhonics		•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	
40.	Veritas Press Phonics Museum		•	•					•			•			•
41.	Words Their Way Classroom K-5		•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	
42.	Writing Road to Reading		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•				•

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# PHONICS CURRICULUM COMPARISON CHART

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	Skills Covered				Components							Notes
	Spelling	G.U.M.	Reading	Handwriting	Kits	Wkbks	Readers	TM	Manipulatives	Audio	Online	
1.			•	•	•	•	•	•				
2.			•			•		•				Optional Flashcards.
3.			•		•	•	•		•	•		Orton Gillingham (OG) method.
4.			•			•	•					Needs additional readers.
5.	•		•	•	•	•	•					Teacher Manual is PDF.
6.		•	•		•	•		•				
7.			•		•		•		•			Multi-sensory. Works well for right-brained students.
8.			•	•		•		•				
9.			•	•		•			•			Orton Gillingham. Book 2 Flashcards sold separately.
10.				•				•				All in One. Integrates Bible stories.
11.	•		•	•		•		•				CC Standards.
12.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			Teacher instruction in workbooks.
13.			•					•	•			Coordinates with Explode the Code.
14.			•		•	•	•				•	
15.		•	•		•	•	•	•	•			Manipulatives in K.
16.			•				•					
17.			•	•	•	•	•		•	•		Use handbook by itself OR kits. Videos at some levels.
18.			•			•	•	•	•			
19.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			Supplemental Read Aloud library. eBook option.
20.	•		•			•					•	OG. Optional print workbooks. Access 1 year/1 stdt.
21.			•			•		•				Continues through Grade 6.
22.			•	•	•	•	•					Can use for remedial.
23.			•			•		•	•	•		Multi-sensory. Flashcards.
24.			•		•	•	•					Continues through Grade 8.
25.	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		Activity sheets rather than workbooks.
26.	•	•	•					•				Multi-sensory. Continues through Grade 8.
27.	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•			Phonogram cards. OG method.
28.			•	•		•	•	•		•		
29.	•		•	•		•		•				Use manual w/ or w/out workbooks. ELL appropriate.
30.	•		•			•					•	Printable worksheets or optional print workbooks. Includes Mathseeds. Access 1 year/up to 4 students.
31.			•					•				Supplements available from publisher.
32.	•		•				•	•				Incorporates Elson Readers.
33.								•				All-in-One. Researched based program.
34.	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•		Orton Gillingham (OG) method. Up to Grade 8.
35.			•		•		•	•	•			Flashcards. For struggling readers. Up to Grade 8.
36.	•		•	•				•	•			Also ELL appropriate. OG method.
37.			•					•				Readers of your choice.
38.			•					•				
39.	•		•		•	•	•	•	•			
40.	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		Adds art appreciation/projects. App available.
41.	•		•		•	•	•	•			•	Online word sorts.
42.	•	•	•	•				•				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 Pages	Christian Content	Standards-Based	Tests	Pre/Post Reading Activities	Author/Title Background
					Tchr	Std	Comb						
Discovering Literature		•	•	•	•			•	•		•	•	•
Great Works Guides	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	•
Memoria Press Literature	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•
Moving Beyond the Page	•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•
Literature Disguised as Fun			•	•	•							•	•
Literature Kits (Novel Study)	•	•	•	•			•	•				•	•
Novel Units		•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•
Novel-Ties	•	•	•	•			•	•				•	•
Prestwick House AP Lit. Guides				•	•			•		•		•	•
Progeny Press	•	•	•	•			•	•	•			•	•
Reflections: Student Response Journals			•	•		•		•			•	•	•
Rigorous Reading		•	•	•			•	•		•		•	•
Sneakerblossom SG		•	•	•		•	•		•			•	•
Total Language Plus		•	•	•			•		•			•	•
Veritas Comprehension Guides	•	•	•	•			•	•	•			•	•
Walking to Wisdom			•	•	•	•			•			•	•

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	
Discovering Literature	•	•	•	•		•	•				•	•	
Great Works Guides	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		
Memoria Press Literature	•	•	•	•		•	•		•				
Moving Beyond the Page	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Literature Disguised as Fun		•	•	•									
Literature Kits Novel Study	•	•	•	•		•	•		•				
Novel Units	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		
Novel-Ties	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•			
Prestwick House AP Lit. Guides	•	•	•	•		•	•						
Progeny Press	•	•	•	•		•	•						
Reflections: Student Response Journals		•	•	•		•						•	
Rigorous Reading	•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	•	
Sneakerblossom SG	•	•	•			•							
Total Language Plus	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		
Veritas Comprehension Guides	•	•	•	•		•	•				•		
Walking to Wisdom	•	•	•	•		•	•					•	

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.