

# Reading

*America's most successful  
reading program for Christian schools*



Putting reading success within every student's reach.



You can put reading success within every student's reach with America's most successful reading program.

## Reading Program

*A Beka Book* offers a treasury of wholesome, character-building readers and a variety of teaching materials that reflect the very best in scholarship, Scriptural fidelity, design, and practicality. **You can put reading success within every student's reach with America's most successful reading program.**

God raised up *A Beka Book*, a Christian textbook publisher affiliated with Pensacola Christian College, to provide Christian schools with God-honoring, high-quality textbooks and teaching aids. The hundreds of traditional Christian educational materials from *A Beka Book* have been developed and refined over a period of more than 55 years in the classrooms of Pensacola Christian Academy, one of America's largest and most respected Christian day schools. *A Beka Book* materials are built upon a foundation of Scriptural truth and are written by dedicated and talented Christian scholars well-grounded in the practical aspects of classroom teaching.

*A Beka Book gives you a comprehensive, quality reading program that is extraordinarily effective.*



"The children who are learning to read with this program are certainly blessed and will profit from this firm educational background for the rest of their lives."

**Rudolf Flesch** (1911–1986)  
Noted author of  
*Why Johnny Can't Read*

*“A Beka® not only focuses on Christ, but weaves godly values, morals, principles, and quotations into every page!” —California*

## Turn your students into eager readers

**T**he *A Beka Book* Reading Program uses fascinating stories that spark interest while building students’ character, skills, and understanding. The result is highly motivated, confident students who delight in the amount and variety of Scripturally sound literature available to them. Delightful classics and poetry, as well as stories and children’s novels, give students insight into their culture and their world while presenting Christian ideals and spiritual values. Colorful illustrations instruct, inspire, and spark the imagination. Students also read the Bible as a regular part of their reading instruction, and because of the outstanding reading instruction, they are able to read the Bible accurately and with understanding from a very early age.

### Complete Coverage of Essential Skills

#### Comprehension

Comprehension skills increase in direct proportion to how much reading they do. In the pamphlet *What Works*, the U.S. Department of Education stated, “Children improve their reading ability by reading a lot. Reading achievement is directly related to the amount of reading children do in school and outside. Unlike using workbooks and performing computer drills, reading books gives children practice in the ‘whole act’ of reading, that is, both in discovering the meaning of individual words and in grasping the meaning of an entire story.”

#### Vocabulary

The purpose of vocabulary study is to enlarge the student’s speaking and listening vocabulary, to aid in his reading comprehension, and to help him develop an interest in and an appreciation for words. With the *A Beka Book* Reading Program, challenging, new words for each story are listed in the student book or in the teacher’s material. This vocabulary is thoroughly taught before students commence reading. Suggestions for practice with dictionary skills are given in the Curriculum Guides and Teacher Editions.

#### Attention to individual differences

In kindergarten through second grade, students are grouped to meet their individual reading needs. The needs of slower learners and higher achievers are provided for with activities, special teaching strategies, and practice within groups. Reduced versions of instructional charts are available for use with smaller groups. Materials are available to help older students who missed out on early phonics training and thus are having difficulty reading.





## Comprehension and thinking skills

**E**arly independence in reading is achieved by emphasizing word-analysis and comprehension skills. **By the end of first grade, all students can read with comprehension and write with understanding.**

Reading comprehension is emphasized throughout the series and is the focus of the Reading Skill Sheets for grades 3–6 and the Speed and Comprehension Readers for grades 4–6. Comprehension questions in the student readers or in the Teacher Edition call for students to summarize, reason, recall details, analyze words, understand concepts, or exercise their imaginations. Guided discussion provides students an opportunity to extend their thinking skills and apply their learning to other situations. Teachers who use discussion wisely can help children cultivate right thinking and attitudes that are based upon Scriptural truth.

Skill Sheets (grades 3–6) are timed reading exercises followed by a comprehension quiz designed to teach students to recall information, notice implications, and use reasoning skills, as well as to enlarge students' reading interests. Students are challenged to develop their reading speed and power of comprehension.

The Speed and Comprehension Readers *Adventures in Other Lands* (4), *Adventures in Nature* (5), and *Adventures in Greatness* (6) provide short, challenging, interesting selections that help students learn to read quickly for information, with a strong emphasis on comprehension skills.

*Language 1* and *Language 2* provide first and second graders with a wide variety of silent reading activities designed to increase their reading comprehension skills, give them practice with decoding words, and encourage their ability to write creatively. The history, science, and health books for all grades also promote reading comprehension.





“I have seen all three of my children become introduced to reading with the *A Beka*® system. I never before would have thought learning to read could come so easily! Placing our children again in a school using your curriculum is our best assurance of finding continuity when moving from place to place.” —*Parent Virginia*

## Intensive phonics approach to reading

**T**he *A Beka Book* Reading Program has been a success story nationwide for many years because it uses a superior phonics approach to beginning reading. This is an *intensive phonics* program, not just a sight reading program garnished with phonics. The intensive phonics approach is taught systematically throughout the kindergarten and lower elementary curriculum to ensure continued growth in skills.

Even though research continues to expose the deficiencies of the sight-memory method of teaching beginning reading, almost all reading programs today still use the sight-memory, or whole language approach. By adding a bit of phonics here and there, many of these programs give the *appearance of phonics, but not the results*. **With an intensive phonics approach, even lower-ability students can learn to read successfully.**

*A Beka Book* phonics teaches beginning students the short sounds of the vowels and then how to blend these sounds with a consonant. In a short time, students are able to read the hundreds of one-syllable words which have short vowel sounds. This allows students to feel a sense of accomplishment from the very beginning. Once they have mastered the simple words, they learn more sounds and longer words.

**From the very beginning, phonics skills are applied in meaningful, character-building stories that correlate with the**

**phonics concepts as they are learned.** This program builds enthusiasm in parents and students and further helps to motivate students in learning with genuine, early achievement in reading.

Phonics skills are reinforced with daily seatwork, including phonics seatwork books, penmanship worksheets, and other classroom support materials that review the concepts taught in phonics instruction. The language, history, and science worktexts support the phonics foundation learned in reading. Even the words used in spelling lessons follow the phonics rules that students have learned. In this way, **all materials in the lower elementary curriculum are correlated to build upon the phonics foundation.**

“I have compared *A Beka*® Christian readers with secular readers for several grade levels and they are light-years apart. Secular readers are basically situational in nature which leads to situation ethics. Many texts are a collection of fables from around the world, often talking about gods and goddesses. In the lower elementary grades the stories are nonsense stories. In short, they don’t teach anything. After reading them I was hard-pressed to even remember what I read. In contrast, Christian stories are unashamedly Christian in nature and students learn something of value. These texts help the student grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. They teach character, values, patriotism, respect for authority, they point students to Christ, etc. Because they are inspirational in nature they can be read several times and enjoyed each time for the moral they teach.”

—Donna Wyeth Thibodeau, M.Ed., C.G.R.S.

## Reading Program

### Goals and Objectives

1. Decode the written language easily.
2. Read with interest and comprehension.
3. Read the Bible with understanding.
4. Appreciate and enjoy good literature.
5. Spell correctly.
6. Develop good character traits.
7. Acquire a large speaking and listening vocabulary.
8. Recall facts easily.
9. Write grammatically correct stories and poems.
10. Read for knowledge and pleasure.



### Program Highlights

- Develops reading comprehension and thinking skills.
- Teaches students to become independent readers.
- Begins all students on the road to successful reading through intensive phonics instruction.
- Supplies an abundance of reading material.
- Incorporates Bible reading and patriotic character-building stories.
- Contains many of delightful classics from the storehouse of children's literature.
- Involves parents in the reading success of their children.
- Provides Teacher Editions and Curriculum Guides that suggest methods of integrating the language arts program.



"I have followed your curriculum for many years because my children are in a Christian school that follows your curriculum. I have been very impressed by what I have seen and extremely happy with my son's progress in reading. He is about two to three years higher than his counterparts in the public school system." —**Illinois**



# Suggested Grade Chart

## Student Readers

## Support Materials

### K4

Little Books (1-10)

Little Owl Books

Old MacDonald's Farm

Tip

Gus

Wig on a Pig

Matt

Pet Pete

Mike's Coat

A Pal

Basic Phonics Sounds CD

Blend Practice Cards A

Phonics Charts and Games

Blend Ladders

Letter-Picture Flashcards

Large Alphabet Flashcards

Miniature Alphabet Flashcards

One-Vowel Word Cards

Felt Upper- and Lower-Case Alphabet

ABC-123

ABC Writing Tablet

Writing with Phonics K4

Curriculum Guide

### K5

My Blend and Word Book

I Learn to Read, Book A

I Learn to Read, Book B

I Learn to Read, Book C

I Learn to Read, Book D

I Do Read, Book 1

I Do Read, Book 2

I Do Read, Book 3

I Do Read, Book 4

I Can Read Well, Book 1

I Can Read Well, Book 2

I Can Read Well, Book 3

I Can Read Well, Book 4

Big Owl Books (4)

Our Week

The Little Pie

Jesus Helps

The Big Green Bird

Reading for Fun Enrichment Library

Basic Phonics Sounds CD

Basic Phonics Charts

Basic Phonics Flashcards

Clue Word Cards

Blend Practice Cards A, B

Phonics Charts and Games

Blend Ladders

Letter-Picture Flashcards

Large Alphabet Flashcards

Miniature Alphabet Flashcards

Felt Upper- and Lower-Case Alphabet

One-Vowel Word Cards

Alphabet Fun Stories

Letters and Sounds K

Kindergarten Writing Tablet

Writing with Phonics K5

Curriculum Guide

### Grade 1

Handbook for Reading

Fun with Pets

Tiptoes

Stepping Stones

Secrets and Surprises

The Bridge Book

Animals in the Great Outdoors

Kind and Brave

Aesop's Fables

Strong and True

Primary Bible Reader

Down by the Sea

Letters and Sounds 1 & Key

Student Test Book & Key

Writing with Phonics 1

Large Phonics Teaching Charts

Basic Phonics Charts

Basic Phonics Flashcards

Clue Word Cards

Basic Phonics Sounds CD

Blend Practice Cards A, B

Large Alphabet Flashcards

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

## Student Readers

## Support Materials

### Grade 2

Handbook for Reading

Story Tree

Treasure Chest

Hidden Treasure

No Longer A Nobody

Paths of Gold

Sunshine Meadows

Silver Sails

Open Skies

Growing Up Where Jesus Lived

All Kinds of Animals

Primary Bible Reader

Letters and Sounds 2 & Key

Student Test Book & Key

Writing with Phonics 2

Large Phonics Teaching Charts

Basic Phonics Charts

Basic Phonics Flashcards

Clue Word Cards

Basic Phonics Sounds CD

Blend Practice Cards B

Large Alphabet Flashcards

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

### Grade 3

Handbook for Reading

Paths to Adventure

Footprints

Swiss Family Robinson

Crossroads

Better Bridges

Pilgrim Boy

Secret in the Maple Tree

Worlds of Wonder

Doors to Discovery

Pilgrim's Progress Simplified

Read and Think Skill Sheets 3

Large Phonics Teaching Charts

Basic Phonics Charts

Basic Phonics Flashcards

Clue Word Cards

Basic Phonics Sounds CD

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

### Grade 4

Salute to Courage

Liberty Tree

Flags Unfurled

Trails to Explore

Adventures in Other Lands

Read & Think Skill Sheets 4

Song of the Brook

Saved at Sea

Reading Record Cards

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

### Grade 5

Beyond the Horizon

Windows to the World

Of America I

Adventures in Nature

Read & Comprehend Skill Sheets 5

Rosa

Noah Webster

Reading Record Cards

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

### Grade 6

Mountain Pathways

Voyage of Discovery

Of America II

Adventures in Greatness

Reading Comprehension Skill Sheets 6

Billy Sunday

Message of the Mountain

Reading Record Cards

Teacher Editions

Curriculum Guide

