Overview:

Book Bridge is a reading comprehension program that provides all students with access to and instruction of grade level literature. Anchored by ten popular texts that represent grade levels two through five, these books appeal to a wide range of students and are applicable to a variety of educational settings—from one-on-one to whole group lessons. Complete with fully accessible activities, opportunities for differentiation, and a predictable instructional framework, this program provides the how-to for teaching reading comprehension of grade level books as specified by the Common Core.

Instructional Content:

Book Bridge addresses the following learning domains:

**Language:**

- Vocabulary Lessons allow students to read, remember and use powerful every day words.
- Lessons encourage the development of world knowledge, listening and communicating skills, as well as knowledge of language and syntax.
- Choice boards provide a predictable and effective scaffold for student participation and engagement.

**Reading Literature and Information:**

- Anchor activities help students activate and build prior knowledge.
- Reading purposes help students build schema and process large sections of text.
- Chapter summaries and enrichment texts connect students to the main idea of each level chapter or story.
- Apply activities enhance cognitive clarity by encouraging students to reflect on their learning and to make personal meaning out of grade level texts.

**Writing:**

- Writing activities allow students to reflect developing knowledge and personal connections with each chapter or story.
- Exposure to a range of beginning writing genres allows students to practice writing for different purposes and audiences and from different perspectives.
- Writing activities create opportunities to transfer viewpoints.

**Speaking and Listening:**

- Choice boards support all students in participating in conversations that are critical to reading comprehension.
- Supportive writing activities create an effective medium for self-expression.
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- Differentiated supports allow students to engage with the text at a level that is appropriate to their attention span and language comprehension.
- Symbol sets specifically designed for each title support communication efforts within the context of instruction.

Program Design:

The primary thrust of each lesson in Book Bridge is to help students develop comprehension of written language and connect them to the joys of reading. Each lesson follows the Anchor-Read-Apply strategy. This proven approach makes it possible for all students, including those with significant language impairments, to engage deeply and meaningfully with literature. Each lesson set is complete. This means that teachers have everything they need to execute each lesson. It also means that students have a stable platform in which to explore literature in meaningful and developmentally appropriate ways.

Lessons proceed according to the following segments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>This segment helps students ground their knowledge and reconnect with characters and cumulative events that have previously occurred in the narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Anchor</td>
<td>These exploratory activities help students activate background knowledge. These activities are not differentiated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>This systematic, multi-step, strategy gives students autonomous opportunities to understand and use words that will aid them in their everyday literacy and communication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Students create schema as they retain the purpose for reading during each chapter or story. Differentiation includes whether students read independently, engage in paired reading, or listen to a read aloud.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Apply</td>
<td>Students reflect on the purpose and apply what they have learned. Differentiation occurs across three levels of complexity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructional Differentiation:

Like all Boardmaker Instructional Solutions, Book Bridge differentiates at the activity level rather than at the curriculum level. This means that the same information is provided to every student. While most of the activities within the program are presented in only one interactive and fully accessible format (review, anchor, vocabulary activities), others
(such as writing activities) are presented across three levels of differentiated support. These levels allow you to customize each learner’s experience according to their individual strength and need. The table below describes both the levels and the kinds of students who benefit from them.

The table below provides more information about these supports and the development of students who may benefit from them:

### Reading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>You can provide Maximal Support by:</th>
<th>You can provide Moderate Support by:</th>
<th>You can provide Minimal Support by:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using Tarheel Reader Chapter Summaries. They provide students with the broad strokes of the overall plot. Each summary is brief and accessible in terms of language, syntax, and complexity.</td>
<td>Doing shared or paired readings of Tarheel Chapter Summaries and/or reading aloud from the original text.</td>
<td>Providing students with access to the full text through a teacher-led oral reading.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For students who:
- Do not read at grade level.
- Have limited exposure to grade level literature.
- Have little or no previous understanding of self as a reader.
- Have the most significant barriers to mainstream curricular materials.

For students who:
- Require support and guidance to engage meaningfully with these texts.
- Have a very beginning identify of self as a reader.
- Have some beginning phonological awareness.
- Have demonstrated some interest or initiative in engaging in storybook reading.
- Have some barriers to mainstream curriculum.

For students who:
- Have the receptive language skills to comprehend the full text.
- Have the attention span to engage with texts of this length.
- Have some previous experience or success with longer texts read aloud.
## Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximal Support:</th>
<th>Moderate Support:</th>
<th>Minimal Support:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This activity format provides the least amount of flexibility in terms of composition and expression. It provides significant support for genre conventions, content, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.</td>
<td>This activity format provides some flexibility in terms of composition and expression. It provides support for genre conventions, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.</td>
<td>This activity format provides the most flexibility in terms of composition and expression. It provides some support for syntax, spelling (through word prediction) and encourages students to morph words and punctuate sentences independently.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For students who:
- Have limited exposure to writing
- Have limited or no experience with writing instruction
- Have little or no previous understanding of self as a writer
- Have little or no experience generating print independently
- Have the most significant barriers to mainstream curricular materials

For students who:
- Have a very beginning identify of self as a writer
- Have some beginning phonemic awareness
- Have some beginning phonological awareness
- Have some experience understanding functions of print
- Have demonstrated some interest or initiative in generating print
- Have some barriers to mainstream curriculum

For students who:
- Have some experience/success as a writer
- Have some knowledge of beginning writing genres
- Have some experience with beginning conventional writing instruction
- Have some independence and initiative as a writer
- Have some beginning conventional phonological knowledge
- Have some barriers to mainstream curriculum

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### Implementation Supports:

Expedition Education comes with a diverse range of implementation supports. These include:

- **Lesson Plans:** These provide word-by-word, step-by-step, directions from activity to activity, from day to day. These are particularly helpful for teachers who are new to the program and/or those who are unfamiliar with teaching within these learning domains.
- **Quick Lesson Guides:** This document is an implementation shortcut. It gives you just the basics of each lesson: it tells you the order, the kind of activity, and the language you need to execute it. This document is particularly helpful to those who are either familiar with the program and/or familiar teaching within these learning domains.
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Assessment Opportunities:

Book Bridge includes easy-to-use formal and informal tools to help teachers monitor growth in key skill areas and guide instruction for each learner.

*Formative:*

- **Literacy Skills inventory:** This document helps you create a profile of your student's holistic literacy development. You can use it not only to familiarize yourself with your student's literacy and language development, but also to assess the landscape in which your student is learning. Additionally, this inventory can serve as an informal assessment before beginning and after ending participation in this program.

- **Writing sample collections:** As students write across a range of genres and for a range of purposes and audiences, a collection of printed work will provide insight into growth across time. Many teachers choose to add anecdotal notes to the back of their students' writing, noting specifics like the date, the time dedicated to composition, and perceived struggles or successes.

*Summative:*

- **Quizzes:** At the end of each text, we provide quizzes at two levels of difficulty. These provide a formal measure of each book and its elements.
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Opportunities for Motivation & Engagement:

Book Bridge addresses the most significant barriers that students with disabilities face when it comes to participating in mainstream instruction. For many students, the primary struggle is access to the curriculum. Book Bridge is fully accessible, both physically and cognitively. Our three levels of reading and writing support allow students across a range of needs and profiles to be successful.

Additionally, many reading comprehension programs organize around two components: reading and then testing. This approach does not create a context for meaningful engagement and as a result, it does not cultivate true comprehension. Each lesson within Book Bridge asks students to connect what is new with what they already know. These personal connections have been proven to be the foundation upon which true reading comprehension exists.

Lastly, many students lack world knowledge. While some can acquire this kind of information incidentally through everyday living, others require direct support and instruction in order to grow in this realm. Literature is an excellent venue in which to help children develop more broad understandings and more varied ways of thinking about the world. Ironically, the students most in need of this kind of intervention rarely seem to access it. Book Bridge is a solution to this problem.

Home-School Connections:

Book Bridge provides an implementation support called, Extensions so that students can extend their thinking beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Extensions are a series of six, take-home letters that provide parents with simple conversation starters about the books that students are reading. The goal of these letters is manifold: to creates additional opportunities where students form opinions, to help them examine their perceptions, to strengthen understanding, and to bridge learning to the home environment. These letters are open-ended and informal. Teachers can decide on the order and frequency in which to disseminate them.

Additionally, Boardmaker Online is a tool that helps facilitate parental involvement on a daily basis. It’s easy to send the student’s login information to the parents of each of your students. Parents can help their child login to access their assigned activities. This makes it easy for parents to see what their child is doing, engage in shared reading, and provide a chance for the student to practice communication and language skills in the context of literature.

Opportunities for Professional Development:
By any measure, reading comprehension is a complex undertaking. Book Bridge provides real-time support for engaging in evidence-based and effective instructional practices that target comprehension, language and literacy development. Its predictable instructional framework helps teachers to implement best practices in reading comprehension, vocabulary instruction, and writing supports. As teachers become more familiar with this product, they can transition away from Complete Lesson Plans and toward the Quick Guides that we provide.