

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

The *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

Early 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

The *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

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

Reading for Fun Enrichment Library

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

