

Reading First Grant Project

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## Recommended Science Reading Books Level 1, K-2

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Hana Ahmed, Orangewood Elementary School

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Melinda Fagen-Costa, Edgewood Renaissance Academy

Erin Groeneveld, Littleton Elementary School

Kathy McDonnell, Edison Park Creative & Expressive Arts Sch.

Patricia Milne-Burt, Franklin Park Magnet School

Sandra Nelson, Skyline Elementary School

Janet Reynolds, Caloosa Elementary School

Janet Stovall, Tropic Isles Elementary School

Barbara Winitzer, Skyline Elementary School

# School District of Lee County

## Recommended Science Reading Books

### Level 1, K-2

#### Introduction

The School District of Lee County is committed to providing all students the learning opportunities they need to become successful readers. In investigating the needs of our at-risk readers, it was determined that these students typically experiences significantly more difficulty reading informational text than narrative text. Some students actually demonstrated up to a **sixty percent (60%) reduction** in reading fluency with informational text as compared to narrative text. These findings clearly indicate a need to provide our at-risk student s additional instruction and reading opportunities with informational text.

During the summer of 2003, a team of Lee County teachers met to review books that would be of particular interest to younger elementary school students, help them to develop their **informational text** reading skills, and improve their knowledge of science content and skills. Throughout this process connections were made to the Balanced Reading Model and to the range of reading strategies that the model suggests (reading aloud, shared reading, supported reading, sustained reading).

Many sample books, and even more suggested titles, were reviewed. Each book was evaluated using student motivation and interest as a threshold for inclusion on the list. This is by no means a complete and final list. Every teacher and every student could create a unique selection set. Every day new titles are published and others go out of print. Periodically this list will be updated to reflect user comments. Please give your feedback on this dynamic list of science titles and communicate other favorites. Email Rick Tully at [rickt@lee.k12.fl.us](mailto:rickt@lee.k12.fl.us).

The selection was focused on books that support the Sunshine State Standards (SSS) in Science. Certain of the SSS are of more significance than others. In particular, the committee selected 20 "Building Block" Benchmarks considered as keys to science understanding in grades K-2. These Benchmarks were also chosen because they are considered to be developmentally important to the Annually Assessed Benchmarks in Level 2, Grades 3-5. Lists of the K-2 Building Block Benchmarks and the 3-5 Annually Assessed Benchmarks are in the Appendices.

Many of these recommended titles may be purchased from various vendors. The Appendices list the vendors that participated in this workshop.

Titles may be previewed in a variety of ways. Many of the books are summarized or reviewed on-line. **Sunlink** is a web resource supported by the Florida DOE. It can be used to search for titles by topic, reading level, location in school collections state-wide and other criteria. Access information is available in the Appendices. Every school in Lee County is a member of Sunlink, so all titles in every school's media center collection are accessible on-line. Sunlink may be used by the Media Specialist/Media Contact to arrange for an Inter-Library Loan. Consider the Inter Library Loan system for preview purposes or to borrow books for student use and thereby optimize the use of limited purchase funds. Many of the vendors also have reviews and other resources available online. **Titlewave** is a particularly useful resource for searching and sorting books from specific publishers. These vendor web sites are listed in the Appendices.

There could be an infinite variety of ways to purchase these books. Some considerations may include how a particular title is intended to be used, how familiar a teacher is with the title, and whether it is available for loan. Here are some options to consider:

- Single volumes, text sets (6 titles), class sets
- Classroom collection or media center collection
- Library bound, hard bound, soft bound
- Availability on the Inter Library Loan system

Many of these titles are available as separate Spanish language editions or as combined English/Spanish readers. Sunlink and the vendor web-sites may be used to quickly sort for Spanish and other language editions.

The core of this work was to create a list of recommended purchases. That list is available as a printed matrix and as an electronic spreadsheet. The recommended books are listed by title, author, reading level, and Building Block Benchmark. For some of the more exemplary or unique books there are brief notes. The electronic version may be particularly useful to **sort** for titles at a particular reading level or related to a particular Building Block Benchmark. This would be particularly helpful in identifying texts which specifically address Building Block Benchmarks the child has not yet mastered. For a print or electronic copy of this document please contact Rick Tully at [rickt@lee.k12.fl.us](mailto:rickt@lee.k12.fl.us).

## Appendices

- Recommended Elementary Science Books  
List of titles and authors with table of Building Block Benchmark alignments, table can be sorted in electronic version, other searchable lists can be found at Sunlink (<http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu>) or at Titlewave (<http://www.titlewave.com>).
- Purchasing Resources  
Vendors participating with committee.
- Publisher Resources  
Publishers participating with committee.
- Web Site Resources  
Access to Sunlink and Titlewave.
- School District of Lee County Resources  
Committee participants.
- Funding Options  
Grants and other resources.
- Building Block Science Benchmarks, Level 1, Grades K-2  
Key Science Benchmarks identified by this committee as important to the development of knowledge and skills that support the Annually Assessed Science Benchmarks in Level 2.
- Annually Assessed Science Benchmarks, Level 2, Grades 3-5  
Those Science Benchmarks that have been identified by FDOE for annual assessment on the FCAT Science in Level 2

## Purchasing Resources

The following list is limited to the vendors who presented and participated in the selection process with the Science Committee. Some of the suggested book selections may also be found with other vendors and suppliers.

### **Earley Learning Systems, Inc.- Jim & Ramana Earley**

Represents:

Heinemann  
Rosen Classroom

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-800-780-0240  
Fax: 1-800-601-9768  
Email: [ramana@earleylearningsystems.com](mailto:ramana@earleylearningsystems.com)

### **Follett Library Resources- Ernie Holler, Local Follett Representative**

Represents:

Selections from 2500 Publishers

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-800-511-5114 ext. #746  
Fax: 1-800-852-5458  
Email: [eholler@flr.follett.com](mailto:eholler@flr.follett.com)

### **Gumdrop Books- Jim Brown, Local Sales & Support Representative**

Represents:

Crabtree  
PowerKids Press  
Raintree Publishers  
Renaissance Learning (AR)  
and many more

Contact Information:

Phone: 239-368-3452/ 1-888-425-3929  
Fax: 1-660-425-3929  
Email: [jrbrown025@aol.com](mailto:jrbrown025@aol.com); [wecare@gumdropbooks.com](mailto:wecare@gumdropbooks.com)

### **Integrated Learning Systems- Timothy Hall, Publishers Representative**

Represents:

Benchmark  
Heinemann  
Pacific Learning  
Teacher Created Materials (Time for Kids)

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-800-745-9379  
Fax: 1-727-735-9193  
Email: [ils57@hotmail.com](mailto:ils57@hotmail.com)

### **Scholl Educational Services- Sue Scholl, Newbridge Science Consultant**

Represents:

Lerner Classroom  
Newbridge

Contact Information:

Phone: 1-800-884-9452  
Fax: 1-360-8426  
Email: [Schollfla@yahoo.com](mailto:Schollfla@yahoo.com)

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### **Gumdrop Books**

[www.gumdropbooks.com](http://www.gumdropbooks.com)

Phone: 1-800-821-7199

Fax: 1-660-425-3929

### **Lerner Classroom**

[www.lernerclassroom.com](http://www.lernerclassroom.com)

Phone: 1-800-328-4929

Fax: 1-800-332-1132

### **Newbridge**

[www.newbridgeonline.com](http://www.newbridgeonline.com)

Phone: 1-800-867-0307

Fax: 1-800-456-2419

### **Pacific Learning**

[www.pacificlearning.com](http://www.pacificlearning.com)

Phone: 1-800-279-0737

Fax: 1-714-895-5087

### **Rourke Publishing**

[www.rourkepublishing.com](http://www.rourkepublishing.com)

Phone: 1-800-394-7055

## Website Resources

[www.sunlink.ucf.edu](http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu)

"Florida's State Union Catalog of K-12 Public School Library Media Holdings"; search for books and audio/visual material availability within the county, region, and/or state.

[www.titlewave.com](http://www.titlewave.com)

Free account connection Follett Library Resources to research and purchase books, and many other resources for schools and individuals; search for resources by standard, theme/topic, book, author, etc.

## School District of Lee County Resources

- Committee Members
  - Hana Ahmed, Orangewood Elementary School
  - Edith Andrews, Michigan Elementary School
  - Gayle Baisch, Orangewood Elementary School
  - Barbara Bittner, Orangewood Elementary School
  - Melinda Fagen-Costa, Edgewood Renaissance Academy
  - Erin Groeneveld, Littleton Elementary School
  - Kathy McDonnell, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School
  - Patricia Milne-Burt, Franklin Park Magnet School
  - Sandy Nelson, Skyline Elementary School
  - Janet Reynolds, Caloosa Elementary School
  - Janet Stovall, Tropic Isles Elementary School
  - Barbara Winitzer, Skyline Elementary School
  
- District Office
  - Dr. Larry Tihen - Director, Curriculum Department & NCLB Grant
  - Rick Tully - Coordinator: Science, Environmental Education, and Health, 275-3033, rickt@lee.k12.fl.us
  - Ruth Rigby - Coordinator: Language Arts
  - Sandi Agle - Director: Department of Instructional Technology & Media
  - Carol Greenfield - Library Technology Assistant, Sunlink Liaison
  
- School Media Specialists
  - Sandy Nelson - Skyline Elementary School, E-ILL Specialist, media consultant

# Funding Options

## No Child Left Behind

The 17 “No Child Left Behind” schools in Lee County will each receive funds designated specifically for purchase of informational readers. These funds will continue to be available at a diminishing rate for the next 6 years. Check with your Media Specialist about use of these funds.

## State Media Funds

Every public school in Florida receives an annual allocation for the purchase of library books. Check with your Media Specialist or Principal.

## Southwest Florida Community Foundation

Grants are provided to schools. Contact them at:

- 274-5900
- [swflcfo@earthlink.net](mailto:swflcfo@earthlink.net)

## Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

Mini-grant funding is offered on a quarterly basis. Contact them at:

- 332-3624
- [Fortmyers@fortmyers.org](mailto:Fortmyers@fortmyers.org)

## Foundation for Lee County Public Schools

Mini-grants are offered to teachers and schools. Contact them at:

- 337-0433
- <http://www.leeschoolfoundation.org>
- [Darlene@leeschoolfoundation.org](mailto:Darlene@leeschoolfoundation.org)

## Southwest Florida Council for Environment Education

SWFCEE provides grants to schools to support programs with an emphasis on the environment. Contact Dick Anderson at Mariner Properties:

- 481-2011, extension 104
- <http://www.swfcee.org>

## School District of Lee County, Dept. of Grants and Program Development

Staff can help locate grant sources and develop grant proposals.

- Jeff McCullers
- 337-8115
- [JeffM@lee.k12.fl.us](mailto:JeffM@lee.k12.fl.us)

## School Improvement Plans

These plans do not directly provide funds. However, the SIP will establish a school’s commitment to spend funds for specific subject areas or topics. Consider including reading in science as a school goal.

## PTA/PTO

Individual school PTAs and PTOs could be valuable resources.