



Benchmark Advance resources were built to support the College and Career Ready Standards for Literacy Key instructional shifts are:

- Regular practice with complex text
- Using text evidence in reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Building content knowledge

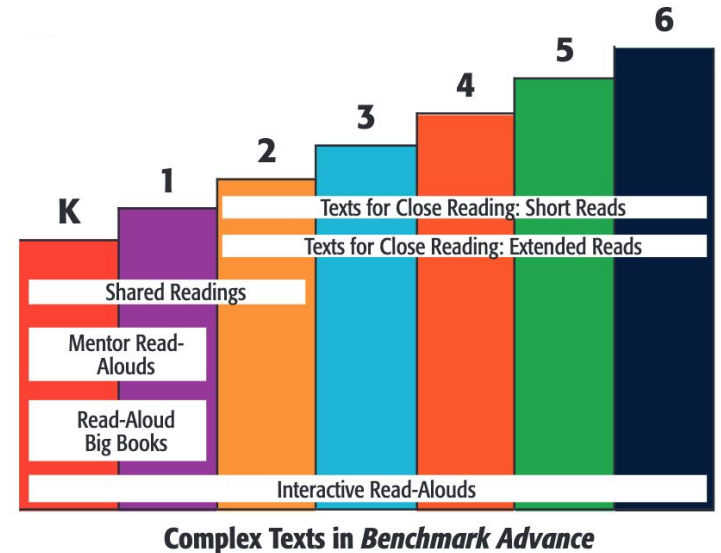
Instructional components include:



Benchmark Advance provides instruction in all components of literacy, including:



- Print Concepts (K-1)
- Phonological Awareness (K-1)
- Phonics (K-2)
- Word Study & Vocabulary (3-5)
- Fluency (3-5)
- Reading Comprehension (K-6)
 - Close reading and analysis of complex texts
 - Collaborative conversations
 - Using text evidence in writing
- Listening and Speaking (K-5)
- Writing (K-5)
 - Short and extended writing activities.



Instructional Approach:



- Mini-lessons: Instruction is given in mini-lessons so that students have time to learn the information, and then put it into practice.
- Gradual release: The units in Benchmark are designed so that students go through the process of watching the teacher model the skills, then practicing the skills together as a group, and finally practicing the skills independently.
- Cyclical approach: The curriculum is designed so that students are consistently coming back to the same standards in order to achieve proficiency. Content topics build on each other throughout the grade levels.

Student Consumables:



- These books are designed for students to interact with the readings by writing on the page and annotating the text.
- Annotation encourages students to take ownership of the text and dive deeper into the content, which improves comprehension.
- Each book is meant to be used for a single unit of instruction. ****Kindergarten has 2 units per book**
- Your student's annotations will allow you to see exactly how they are interpreting and engaging with the readings.
- Topics include social studies and science content as well as literary subjects such as point of view, theme, and character.

Units of Study:

All grade levels consist of 10 units of study. The content knowledge of each unit builds as students progress through the grade levels.



Unit	Knowledge Strand		
1	Government and Citizenship	6	Theme
2	Character	7	History and Culture
3	Life Science	8	Earth Science
4	Point of View	9	Economics
5	Technology and Society	10	Physical Science

Example progression of Unit 1:


Unit	Knowledge Strand	Knowledge Strand Progression		
		K	1	2
1	Government and Citizenship	Rules at Home and School Why do we have rules?	Being a Good Community Member Why do people get involved in their communities?	Government at Work Why do we need a government?

GRADES		
3	4	5
Government for the People Why do people participate in government?	Government in Action How can government influence the way we live?	The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now Why do laws continue to evolve?

Close Reading:

Topic & Stories Have a Message Fablie

Crow Learns a Lesson



Crow found a piece of cheese and flew up to a tree to eat it. Fox saw her and had a plan.

“You have such a wonderful voice!” he said. “Please sing for me!” So Crow sang and the cheese fell down! Then Fox ran away with the cheese.

2

In Grades K–1, students learn how to interact with texts as a first step toward close reading and text annotation.

Short Read 2

Remember to annotate as you read.

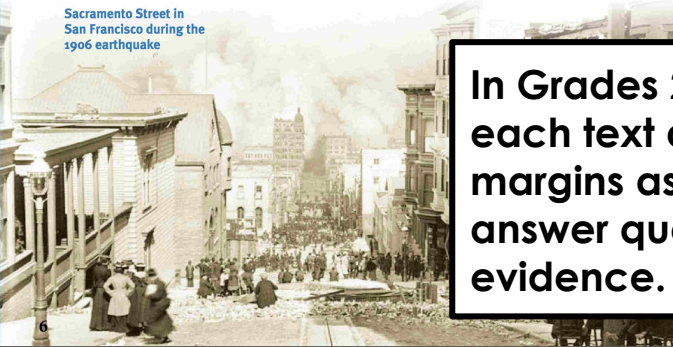
The San Francisco Earthquake, 1906: An Eyewitness Account

by Emma Burke

At 5:12 a.m. on April 18, 1906, residents of San Francisco, California, were jolted out of their beds by the first shock of a violent earthquake. More than a century later, this quake still ranks as one of the most significant geological events of all time. Emma M. Burke, who lived on Waller Street near Golden Gate Park at the time of the earthquake, published this account of her experiences that fateful day.

Notes

1 No one can comprehend the calamity to San Francisco in its entirety. The individual experience can probably give the general public the clearest idea. I was one of the fortunate ones, for neither personal injury nor death visited my household. But what I saw and felt I will try to give to you.



Sacramento Street in San Francisco during the 1906 earthquake

6

In Grades 2-5, students annotate each text and take notes in the margins as they read closely to answer questions and gather evidence.

Writing:



Please use this link to see an overview of each grade level's writing progression throughout the units:

[Benchmark Writing Units](#)

Benchmark Universe:

Students will be using the online platform Benchmark Universe to read and annotate grade level texts.



Instructions for accessing and using Benchmark Universe can be found [here](#).

Students can also explore Benchmark Universe on their own time and choose texts for independent reading.