

Introduction to the *Destination Reading Courseware*

Philosophy and Purpose

Destination Reading is a comprehensive, electronically-based reading curriculum. It teaches students to read fluently and with understanding. *Destination Reading* uses a balanced approach that explicitly teaches phonics, decoding, and comprehension skills within and around language- and literature-rich activities.

Destination Reading can be used as the basis of your reading program, or it can be used to complement a reading curriculum already in place. *Destination Reading Course I (DR Course I)* is designed for grades K and 1. (It can also be used in the PreK classroom.) Students can interact with a new software activity each day throughout the entire school year.

When added to a curriculum that includes teacher-led instruction and time spent with printed books, software such as *Destination Reading* provides unique advantages in reading instruction:

- Pre-readers can work independently at the computer because the software provides spoken instructions.
- Unlike a printed textbook, software can automatically adjust itself to fit the student's level. Adaptive feedback advances students through the curriculum more quickly when they are succeeding and more slowly—with additional instructions and practice problems—when they are having difficulty. *DR Course I* praises students when they succeed and provides gentle, helpful feedback when they choose the wrong answer.
- Most of the electronic books in *DR Course I* include a “read aloud” option. Students can choose to read the text independently, click an individual word to hear it read aloud, or click a green dot to hear the entire page read aloud.
- Students can work through the program freely, at their own pace, or teachers can assign specific activities to individuals or to the whole class.

DR Course I is research based, teacher-tested, and student-tested. Riverdeep used current research, classroom observations, and teacher focus groups to develop a product that teaches reading effectively and meets the needs of today's classroom. Significant contributions to the development of *DR Course I* were also made by Dr. Victoria Purcell-Gates—one of the country's leading thinkers in literacy and reading instruction.

Content

The *Destination Reading Series* covers grades K--8. *Destination Reading, Courses I & II* covers grades K--3. It helps students grow from non-readers to fluent readers and writers whether they've come from a literacy-rich background or have had limited prior exposure.

Destination Reading Course I

Grades K-1

In 17 units, 215 activities teach:

- fundamental print concepts
- alphabetic principles
- phonemic awareness
- phonics
- early reading
- automatic word recognition
- vocabulary
- comprehension strategies

Included in the program are:

- narrative fiction
- informational texts
- decodable texts
- poetry
- songs
- environmental text
- writing activities

For a detailed description of the content in *Destination Reading Course I*, please see the *Scope & Sequence*.

Destination Reading Course II

Grades 2-3

In 24 units, 287 activities teach:

- comprehension
- advanced phonics
- word study
- elements of fiction
- elements of nonfiction
- writing
- early grammar
- research skills
- reading for task-related purposes
- reading graphics-based text

Included in the program are:

- fiction and nonfiction in a wide variety of genres
- graphics-based text such as maps, charts, and timelines
- poetry
- songs
- writing activities