



Fountas & Pinnell

# Leveled Literacy Intervention

AT A GLANCE

K-5+ • Levels A-W on the  
F&P Text Level Gradient™

Fountas & Pinnell

# Leveled Literacy Intervention

## Irene C. Fountas

is the Marie M. Clay Endowed Chair for Early Literacy and Reading Recovery at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts and director of the Center for Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative in the Graduate School of Education. She has been a classroom teacher, language arts specialist, and consultant in school districts across the nation and abroad. She is the recipient of the International Literacy Association's Diane Lapp & James Flood Professional Collaborator Award, and the Greater Boston Council and the International Reading Association's Celebrate Literacy Award. Currently, she works with administrators, coaches and teacher leaders in systemic school improvement.

## Gay Su Pinnell

is Professor Emerita in the School of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University and a member of the Reading Hall of Fame. She has extensive experience in classroom teaching, field-based research, and in developing comprehensive literacy systems. She is the recipient of the International Literacy Association's Diane Lapp & James Flood Professional Collaborator Award, The Ohio State University Alumni Association's Medalist Award, the International Reading Association's Albert J. Harris Award for research in reading difficulties, the Ohio Governor's Award, the Charles A. Dana Foundation Award, The Eastern New Mexico University Hall of Honor, and a 2018 recipient of an honorary doctorate from Lesley University for her contributions to literacy education.



Small student-teacher ratios



Explicit daily instruction

"I would say their **confidence** is the biggest change. And their love of reading now that they didn't have before."

- Sharron Carruthers,  
Literacy Intervention Teacher, Chicago, IL

"You can't go back in time. You can't bring them back to kindergarten and teach them again, but... this is a way to do it... this is a way to **give them hope.**"

- Kenya Sadler, Principal, Chicago, IL



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✓ Embedded professional development







✓ Original, high-interest, diverse fiction and nonfiction books

✓ Systematic lesson structure *designed for success*



## Transforming readers since 2009

Leveled Literacy Intervention Systems are specifically designed for students who are falling below grade-level expectations in reading. With diverse, authentic books that are carefully written and designed to capture the interest of students, and fast-paced lessons that deliver high-impact teaching, LLI turns struggling readers into successful readers.

REACH PROFICIENCY FOR GRADE	LEVELED LITERARY INTERVENTION SYSTEM	READING LEVELS
K	 LLI <b>Orange</b> System SECOND EDITION	A–E
1	 LLI <b>Green</b> System SECOND EDITION	A–K
2	 LLI <b>Blue</b> System SECOND EDITION	C–N
3	 LLI <b>Red</b> System	L–Q
4	 LLI <b>Gold</b> System	O–T
5+	 LLI <b>Purple</b> System	R–W



## Effective intervention to support beginning readers

Digging deeply into the research on literacy learning and reading difficulties, Fountas and Pinnell have identified 15 key characteristics of effective literacy intervention for primary grade students.

### **THE LLI ORANGE, GREEN, AND BLUE SYSTEMS LESSON FRAMEWORK EXEMPLIFIES AND RESTS ON THESE 15 KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION:**

1. *LLI* supplements, not replaces, regular classroom instruction.
2. *LLI* is a short-term intervention that provides thirty-minute lessons of highly concentrated instruction in reading, writing, and phonics.
3. *LLI* daily lessons reinforce new learning and help children make accelerated progress.
4. *LLI* provides student support through explicit, direct instruction with a recommended teacher-student ratio of 1:3.
5. *LLI* lessons are fast-paced.
6. *LLI* stresses fluent, phrased reading of high-interest, original texts, as well as fluency in writing.
7. *LLI* focuses on deep comprehension of texts.
8. *LLI* engages students with high-quality texts in a variety of fiction and nonfiction genres that are leveled by Fountas and Pinnell using their F&P Text Level Gradient™.
9. *LLI* focuses on developing effective early writing.
10. *LLI* includes systematic phonics instruction that focuses on the key aspects of phonics learning.
11. *LLI* provides teachers with a framework in which to make decisions based on close observation of students' needs.
12. *LLI* includes initial and ongoing assessments, progress monitoring, and record-keeping instruments.
13. *LLI* provides a high level of professional development both within and outside lessons.
14. *LLI* supports a strong classroom connection that enhances learning beyond *LLI*.
15. *LLI* promotes a strong home connection that enables students to gain valuable reading/writing practice, and build self-esteem by sharing their success.

Visit [fountasandpinnell.com](https://www.fountasandpinnell.com) for a complete list of research references.



## ...and intermediate readers.

Research reveals fifteen key characteristics of effective literacy interventions that are essential for intermediate and middle grade students who need to improve their reading competencies.

### **THE LLI RED, GOLD, AND PURPLE SYSTEMS LESSON FRAMEWORK EXEMPLIFIES AND RESTS ON THESE 15 KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION:**

1. *LLI* engages students with high-interest, well-written texts in a variety of fiction and nonfiction genres that have been leveled by Fountas and Pinnell using their F&P Text Level Gradient™.
2. *LLI* increases students' reading volume by engaging them in large amounts of daily successful reading.
3. *LLI* provides students with choice in reading material to increase engagement, motivation, and enjoyment.
4. *LLI* enables new learning by matching the text to the reader's instructional reading level.
5. *LLI* supports the development of independent, self-initiating, self-regulatory behaviors.
6. *LLI* provides large amounts of expository text reading [60% nonfiction / 40% fiction].
7. *LLI* helps students think deeply about texts and derive the larger ideas from their reading.
8. *LLI* helps students focus on comprehension and monitor their reading through metacognitive attention that supports deeper understanding of fiction and informational texts.
9. *LLI* provides intensive and dynamic study of words to increase students' ability to rapidly solve them while reading and writing.
10. *LLI* focuses on systematic, intentional vocabulary development.
11. *LLI* promotes smooth, phrased reading that moves along at a good pace.
12. *LLI* focuses the intervention on oral language development by providing structures to promote meaningful student talk.
13. *LLI* uses writing to support and extend comprehension.
14. *LLI* supports the specific needs of English language learners.
15. *LLI* provides a great deal of student support through explicit, direct instruction with a recommended teacher-student ratio of 1:4.

Visit [fountasandpinnell.com](http://fountasandpinnell.com) for a complete list of research references.

# HELP STRUGGLING READERS AT EVERY AGE AND EVERY STAGE

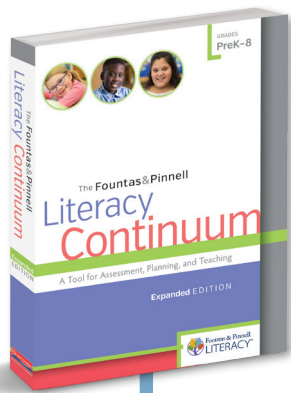
## The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System

The *Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System (LLI)* for grades K–5+ improves the literacy achievement of struggling readers through intensive, supportive lessons and carefully written leveled books that are engaging, efficient, and effective.

F&P TEXT LEVEL GRADIENT™	
FOUNTAS & PINNELL LEVELS	GRADE-LEVEL GOALS
A	Kindergarten
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	Grade One
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	Grade Two
L	
M	
N	
O	
P	Grade Three
Q	
R	
S	
T	
U	Grade Four
V	
W	
X	
Y	
Z	Grade Five
Z+	
Z+	Grade Six
Z+	
Z+	Grade Seven–Eight
Z+	
Z+	High School/Adult
Z+	

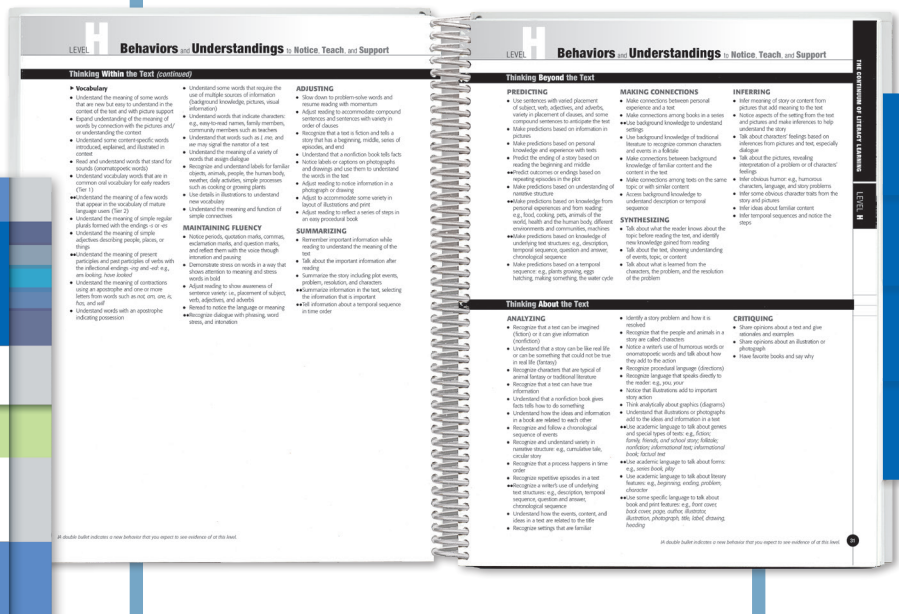
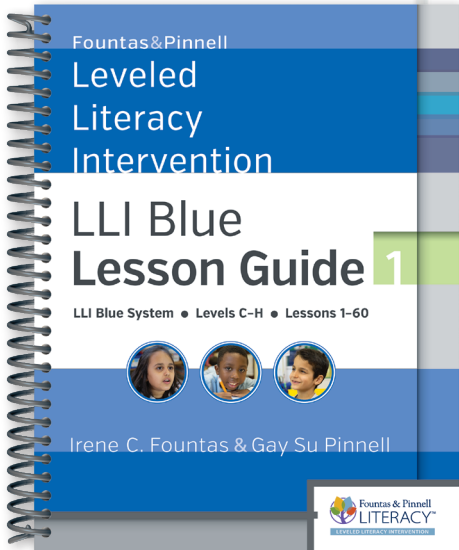
The grade-level goals on the F&P Text Level Gradient™ are intended to provide general guidelines, which should be adjusted based on school/district requirements and professional teacher judgment.

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### A FIRM FOUNDATION

LLI is a daily, supplementary intervention for students reading below grade-level expectation. *The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum* and the F&P Text Level Gradient™ are the foundation on which the systems were built. Each lesson was created around the behavioral goals from *The Literacy Continuum* and each book was written, illustrated, and edited according to the text characteristics listed at each text level from *The Literacy Continuum* as well.



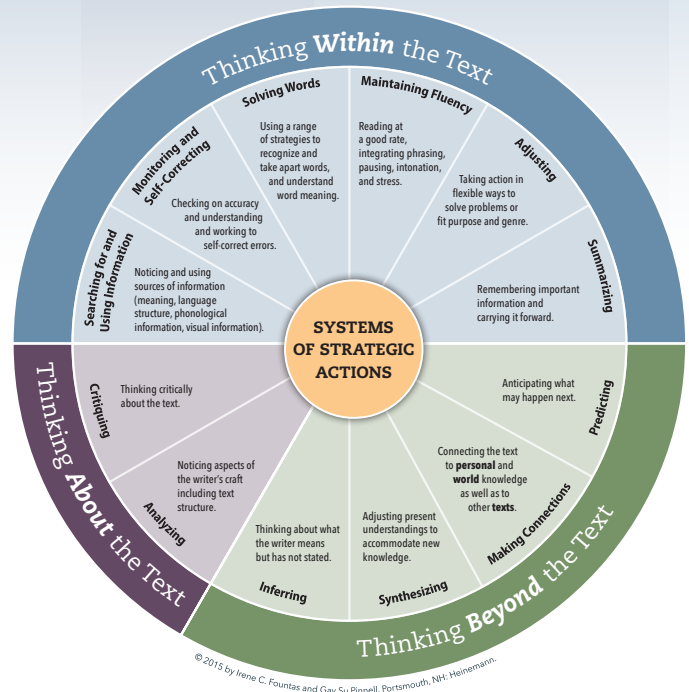
## Daily Instruction

## Leveled Literacy Intervention

The goal of LLI is to lift the literacy achievement of students who are not achieving grade-level expectations in reading. It is designed to give students the boost they need to achieve literacy success.

### CONNECT OBSERVATION TO RESPONSIVE TEACHING

LLI focuses on a deep comprehension of texts by engaging students in original, high-quality texts in a variety of fiction and nonfiction genres during small-group instruction. This small-group setting allows teachers to closely observe students to identify the specific behaviors and competencies to teach for, assess, and reinforce at each level.



# small-group

DESIGNED FOR SUCCESS			
LLI SYSTEMS	SMALL-GROUP SIZE	DAILY INSTRUCTION	SUCCESS IN WEEKS
<b>GRADES</b> K, 1, 2 	<b>1:3</b> Teacher-to-student ratio	<b>30-minute</b> lessons, <b>5 days</b> per week	<b>14–18 weeks</b> of explicit, direct instruction
<b>GRADES</b> 3, 4, 5+ 	<b>1:4</b> Teacher-to-student ratio	<b>45-minute</b> lessons, <b>5 days</b> per week	<b>18–24+ weeks</b> of explicit, direct instruction

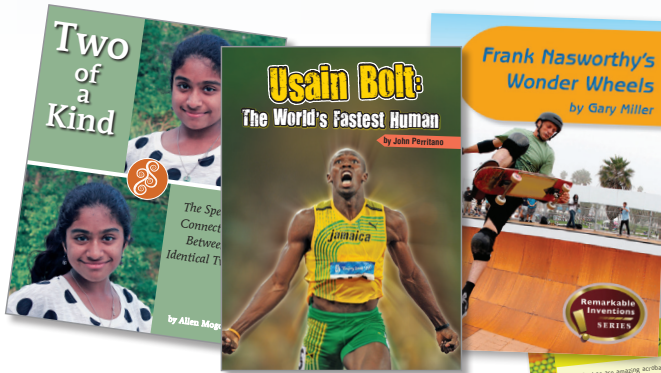
# short-term

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
<b>K</b>	Levels A–E					LLI <b>Orange</b> System																	
<b>1</b>	Levels A–K											LLI <b>Green</b> System											
<b>2</b>	Levels C–N													LLI <b>Blue</b> System									
<b>3</b>	LLI <b>Red</b> System										Levels L–Q												
<b>4+</b>	LLI <b>Gold</b> System													Levels O–T									
<b>5+</b>	LLI <b>Purple</b> System															Levels R–W							

# Engaging

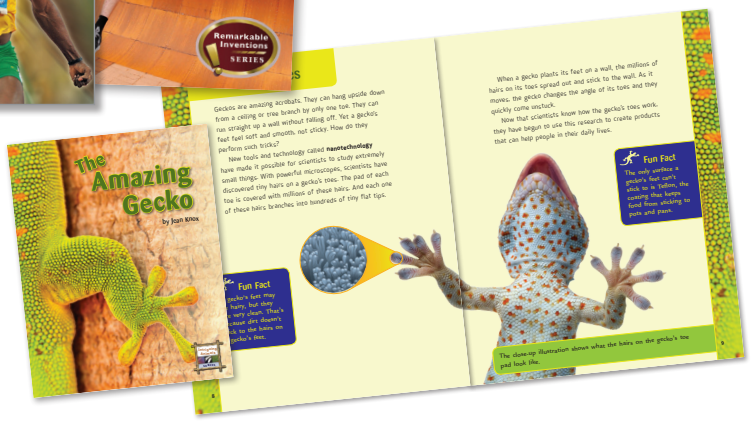
LLI is packed with authentic, diverse, original books that represent a variety of genres. They are books that children relate to, learn from, and love to read.

<b>GRADES K, 1, 2</b> 	<b>GRADES 3, 4, 5+</b> 
60% FICTION	40% FICTION
40% NONFICTION	60% NONFICTION



"I have yet to have a 5-year-old not want to open up one of these books."  
 - Robyn Jacob, LLI Interventionist, Vermont

"What struck me was the level of engagement, the enthusiasm that I saw the kids have for the instruction and the materials."  
 - David Bickford, Superintendent, Union, Vermont

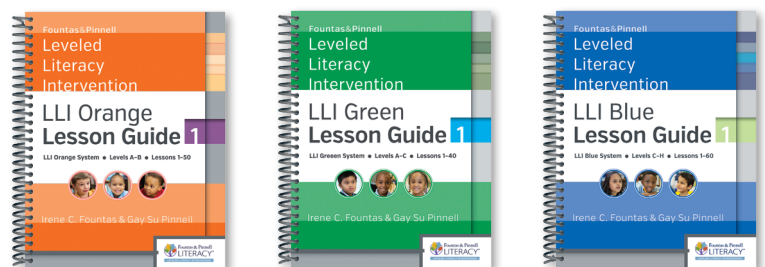


# Efficient

LLI is made up of fast-paced, systematically designed lessons that support learning in both reading and writing, and helps students expand their knowledge of language, words, and how they work.

"Just through that work with LLI, and giving him strategies to actually be a successful reader, his behavior problems disappeared. And now (this is a kid who would never pick up a book on his own) this kid is sitting in the cafeteria reading."  
 - Kenya Sadler, Principal, Chicago, IL

THE LLI LESSON FRAMEWORKS	
<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE AND UPPER GRADES</b>
Getting Started Lessons	Standard Lessons <i>Two alternating frameworks</i>
Standard Lessons <i>Two alternating frameworks</i>	Novel Study Lessons
	Optional Test Preparation Lessons

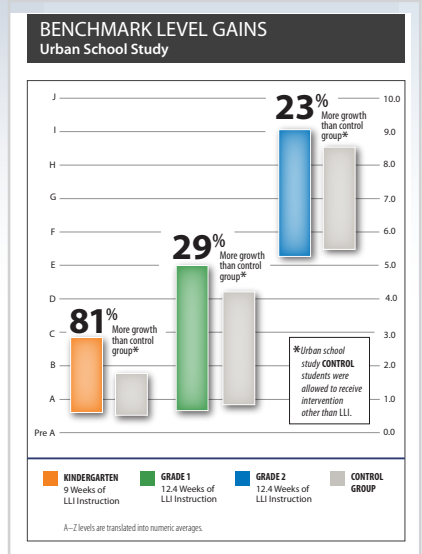
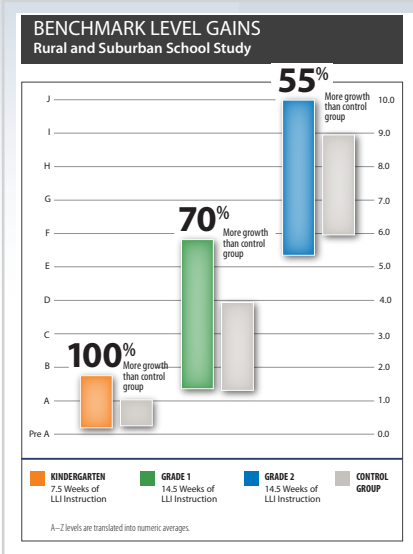




# Effective

Research shows success in urban, suburban, and rural schools.

THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY'S REPORT ON LLI WAS EVALUATED AND IS RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL CENTER ON RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (NCRTI).



Read the CREP reports at [fountasandpinnell.com](http://fountasandpinnell.com)

"At first, I was scared to read. But now, I was reading so good, I was proud of myself."  
 - LLI Student, Lowell, MA

"Students who may earlier have said, 'I can't read. I can't do it. It's too hard,' they're taking off and they're excited about reading."  
 - Linda Schwetz, ESL Language and Literacy Support, Cambridge, MA

"The best part of it was watching her enjoy reading...She just blossomed and I don't know if she could have done that without LLI; truly."  
 - Maria Gonzalez, LLI Teacher, Cambridge, MA

## PROVEN EFFECTIVE

The What Works Clearinghouse™ (WWC) and ESSA have reviewed the research on LLI, finding positive impacts and strong evidence of effectiveness for students in grades K-2. These findings are based on two independent, empirical studies conducted by The University of Memphis's Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP).



**WWC: SHOWING POSITIVE IMPACTS FOR BEGINNING READERS**

LLI READING ACHIEVEMENT

Read the full WWC report at [whatworks.ed.gov](http://whatworks.ed.gov)



**EVIDENCE FOR ESSA: LLI RECEIVES STRONG RATING FOR EFFECTIVENESS**

LLI EFFECTIVENESS

Essa Rating	Studies	Students	Avg. Effect Size
<b>STRONG</b>	2	566	+0.13

Read more at [evidenceforessa.org](http://evidenceforessa.org)

# RESEARCH REVEALS PROVEN SUCCESS

# COMPONENTS

LLI Components PER SYSTEM	LLI <b>Orange</b> System LEVELS A-E • KINDERGARTEN	LLI <b>Green</b> System LEVELS A-K • GR. 1	LLI <b>Blue</b> System LEVELS C-N • GR. 2
<b>BOOKS</b>			
Leveled Books	110 titles / 4 copies each	130 titles / 4 copies each	120 titles / 4 copies each
Getting Started Lap Books	10 titles / 1 copy each	10 titles / 1 copy each	—
Novels	—	—	—
<b>TEACHER RESOURCES</b>			
System Guide	1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
Lesson Guides	2 volumes	3 volumes	2 volumes
Prompting Guide Part 1 for Oral Reading and Early Writing	1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
Prompting Guide Part 2 for Comprehension: Thinking, Talking, Writing	1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
When Reader's Struggle, K-3	1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
Professional Learning Videos	Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
Tutorial Videos	Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
F&P Calculator/Stopwatch	1 calculator/stopwatch	1 calculator/stopwatch	1 calculator/stopwatch
Student Folders	One 18-pack	One 18-pack	One 18-pack
Lesson Folders	110 folders and labels	130 folders and labels	120 folders and labels
Online Data Management System	1-year trial	1-year trial	1-year trial
Online Resources	Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
Ready Resources	1 set	1 set	1 set
<b>STUDENT RESOURCES</b>			
Black-and-White Take-Home Books	6 copies each title	6 copies each title	6 copies each title
My Writing Books	126 writing books	126 writing books	126 writing books
Student Take-Home Bags	18 bags	18 bags	18 bags
Student Portfolios	—	—	—
Student Test Preparation Booklets	—	—	—
Literacy Notebooks	—	—	—
Student Whiteboards	6-pack of student whiteboards with letter boxes	6-pack of student whiteboards with letter boxes	6-pack of student whiteboards with letter boxes
Word Magnets	—	—	—
<b>OPTIONAL PURCHASE OUTSIDE SYSTEM</b>			
LLI Reading Record App for iPads	Purchase through Apple iTunes	Purchase through Apple iTunes	Purchase through Apple iTunes
F&P SELECT Collections Selected PM Readers, available in single-copy or six-copy collections	4 Collections 25 titles each Collection	4 Collections 55 titles each Collection	4 Collections 60 titles each Collection
LLI Choice Library	—	—	150 trade titles + Guide
FPC Independent Reading Collection	150 trade titles 150 Conferring Cards Guide	150 trade titles 150 Conferring Cards Guide	150 trade titles 150 Conferring Cards Guide

LLI <b>Red</b> System LEVELS L-Q • GR. 3	LLI <b>Gold</b> System LEVELS O-T • GR. 4	LLI <b>Purple</b> System LEVELS R-W • GR. 5+
144 titles / 6 copies each	144 titles / 6 copies each	144 titles / 6 copies each
—	—	—
6 titles / 6 copies each	6 titles / 6 copies each	6 titles / 6 copies each
1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
3 volumes	3 volumes	6 volumes
1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
1 copy	1 copy	1 copy
—	—	—
Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
1 calculator/stopwatch	1 calculator/stopwatch	1 calculator/stopwatch
One 16-pack	One 16-pack	One 16-pack
192 folders and labels	192 folders and labels	204 folders and labels
1-year trial	1-year trial	1-year trial
Digital delivery	Digital delivery	Digital delivery
—	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
—	—	—
16 portfolios	16 portfolios	16 portfolios
One 16-pack of each level	One 16-pack of each level	One 16-pack of each level
96 notebooks 56pp each	96 notebooks 72pp each	96 notebooks 96pp each
One 6-pack	One 6-pack	One 6-pack
43 sheets / 903 magnets 1 marker, 1 eraser	43 sheets / 903 magnets 1 marker, 1 eraser	43 sheets / 903 magnets 1 marker, 1 eraser
Purchase through Apple iTunes	Purchase through Apple iTunes	Purchase through Apple iTunes
2 Collections 30 titles each Collection	—	—
150 trade titles + Guide	150 trade titles + Guide	250 trade titles + Guide
200 trade titles 200 Conferring Cards Guide	200 trade titles 200 Conferring Cards Guide	200 trade titles 200 Conferring Cards Guide

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DEDICATED TO TEACHERS

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