



## Transitioning From Learning to Read to Reading to Learn

Adolescent literacy (ages 10–19) marks a critical transition from learning to read to reading to learn. As texts grow more complex, students who haven't mastered foundational skills face challenges.

### Why Literacy Interventions Matter for Secondary Students

Each student brings unique experiences, needs, and strengths to the classroom. Decades of research highlight the importance of the Five Pillars of Reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. These foundational skills, though focused on early literacy, remain essential for adolescents who may still need support.

### Five Pillars for Adolescent Learners

While most adolescents are expected to be proficient in the Five Pillars, gaps in prior instruction may exist. Revisiting these pillars helps secondary students strengthen or regain proficiency. Phonemic awareness and phonics may need less emphasis, but fluency and vocabulary often require continued support as students encounter challenging texts.

### Building Advanced Literacy Skills

Secondary teachers need to focus on literacy strategies like context and figurative language, but these are only effective if students have a strong foundation in reading. Once core reading skills are solid, educators can confidently introduce more complex concepts.

### Really Great Reading's Solutions for Middle and High School

Really Great Reading offers solutions that support the Five Pillars. For struggling readers, HD Word and InferCabulary address decoding and vocabulary. HD Word improves decoding for smoother, more accurate reading, while InferCabulary strengthens vocabulary and language comprehension. This combined approach is effective for students struggling with content comprehension.

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