

Decodable Chapter Books for Struggling Readers**Tips for Teachers**

Thank you for your interest in the Code Reader chapter books! Code Reader makes text more accessible for struggling readers by providing decodable “phonetic keys” for challenging words throughout each book. This groundbreaking series, designed to align with the Science of Reading principles, is for students in grades 3 to 7. The books use evidence-based practices to build skills in the five components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

What makes Code Reader books special?

- **Phonetic keys to help decode and read challenging words:** For example, the word *coyote* may be a difficult word to read for many students. In a Code Reader book, it would likely be followed by a phonetic key like this: coyote (*ky-OH-tee*). Assistance in reading challenging words like this will aid in fluency and comprehension of the text.
- **High-interest, age-appropriate content:** Code Reader includes fiction and nonfiction titles with high-interest content designed to captivate young readers. From thrilling adventures to fascinating facts, there are engaging Code Reader books for every reader.
- **Builds vocabulary:** When students use the phonetic keys to read challenging words, they build their speaking and reading vocabulary—and increase their ability to read those words in other contexts.
- **Family engagement:** These books are perfect for extra decoding practice at home. The **Tips for Parents** can be sent home to provide extra support.

How can you support students using Code Reader books?

- Model using the phonetic keys to read words. Help students practice using the phonetic keys to decode words they find difficult to read. Point out that codes have dashes between syllables and emphasized syllables are capitalized. After they use a key to sound out a word, encourage students to look back at the word to connect the pronunciation with the written word.
- At the end of each book is a list of Code Reader “Sound Keys.” It can be very helpful to review these Sound Keys with your students to support their ability to decode the phonetic keys.
- If a phonetic key is not needed, students can simply skip over it, but if they use one to help read a word, encourage students to read the sentence again to improve their understanding and fluency.
- Send Code Reader books home with students, along with the **Tips for Parents**.
- The Code Reader series includes Green Level books, primarily for grades 3 to 6, and Blue Level books, for grades 4 to 7. (The level of each book can be identified by the color of the Code Reader logo on the cover.) Consider reviewing the scope and sequence charts at [CodeReader.org/scope](https://www.CodeReader.org/scope) that show the phonetic skills and high-frequency words for each level to help determine which level may be best for your students.

Code Reader books empower students to read with more ease, understanding, and enjoyment. Reading these books will help students become stronger, more self-assured readers—in school, at home, and beyond!

For more information, visit us at [CodeReader.org](https://www.CodeReader.org)