

Preface

The twelfth edition of the *Basic Reading Inventory* continues with the well-received “two book” approach. Initially, these two books resulted from the suggestions of teachers, reading specialists, and coaches who desired to have the student word lists, passages, and student materials from the Early Literacy Assessments in a separate book so it would be easier to manage and use during the administration of the Basic Reading Inventory.

The larger of the two books contains all you need to know to administer, score, and interpret the Basic Reading Inventory. We have devoted our efforts to refining those components that warranted revision, clarification, expansion, and updating. Special thanks to all teachers, colleagues, reading specialists, interventionists, and reading coaches who have offered help, ideas, constructive criticism, and encouragement. Below we highlight the new features of the twelfth edition:

- The largest change involves a redesigned approach to assessing reading in kindergarten and first grade. Because students in kindergarten and first grade are expected to make significant growth in reading, their progress is often documented through a gradient of text levels (e.g., Beaver & Carter, 2011; Fountas & Pinnell, 2010). To support this common practice in many schools, we developed three passages for kindergarten and three passages for first grade in Forms A, B, C, D, and E. These passages correlate with expectations at the beginning, middle, and end of kindergarten and first grade. By providing three passages in kindergarten and three passages in first grade, we seek to help teachers more precisely determine their students’ reading levels, enabling progress monitoring, and most importantly, matching students with appropriate texts. There are also three word lists for kindergarten in each of forms A–C.
- Many of the passages throughout the inventory have been replaced, reworked, or updated. Users familiar with the inventory will likely notice many of these changes during administration. A number of questions and answers have also been changed.
- A writing component and a scoring rubric are now provided for every passage to enable you to assess student writing ability. The writing prompts are loosely based on the passages.
- A dedicated website provides many resources beyond those contained in the manual. You will find video clips, a comprehensive bibliography on informal reading inventories, answers to practice exercises, and other helpful resources. Website information and access code is located on the inside back cover of this manual.
- Connections to the common core and an updated Instructional Interventions Grid are provided to help you target instruction based on student needs.

We also want to highlight a few items that can make the Basic Reading Inventory even more useful to you:

- There is a page with tabs in the back of this manual that you can cut out and fasten to the appropriate pages to make finding information easier. Tabs are also provided at the back of the Student Book that can be placed on appropriate pages to more easily locate the word lists, passages, and Early Literacy Assessments.
- Helpful guides for administering the inventory are found inside the front cover and on page 439 of this manual.

The Basic Reading Inventory has seven forms and seven Early Literacy Assessments. A dedicated website contains video clips to help you learn administration procedures, the performance booklets for all seven forms of the inventory, the record booklets for the two forms of the Early Literacy Assessments, numerous summary sheets, answers to practice exercises, and a large annotated bibliography of research and resources related to informal reading inventories.

The twelfth edition makes us thankful for your partnership over the years. We hope you, whether veteran or first-time user, will find the Basic Reading Inventory helpful in your work with all students and especially with those students who find reading difficult. Together, in partnership, we strive to continue helping students strengthen their reading.

Jerry, Laurie, and Beth