Prentice Hall

The Reader’s Journey

Homeschool bundle includes:
- Consumable Student Work Text
- Teacher Organizer Binder (Complete with Teacher’s Guides for all 6 Units)
Thank you for choosing Pearson to help you on your homeschool journey. Making the right decision about homeschooling can set your child on an exciting path to a lifetime of learning and success. Pearson makes it easy for you to inspire a joy of learning with flexible programs to fit your child’s unique learning style. This built-in flexibility lets you set the schedule and the pace that works for you and your child. As you read through this guide and review the included materials, you’ll experience how easy it is to personalize the curriculum to match your child’s learning style and ensure success with our engaging programs.

Plus, you can rest assured that all of the fundamentals for success are included. The homeschool curriculum you have chosen has been thoughtfully developed and tested by seasoned professionals, to make sure your child receives the finest education.

Welcome to Pearson Homeschool!
Preparation

It is always an exciting time when you get to open the box with your new curriculum. All of the books and materials are colorful, the pages are crisp and they are filled with the possibilities of the coming year. The anticipation of using the books and teaching your child is new and fresh. Like the air after a spring shower, it is invigorating. You can’t wait until you can get started.

Open the bundle of materials, flip through the pages of each book, take in how they look and feel. Get familiar with all of the components. Let your child share in the excitement and catch the enthusiasm you have for starting this new adventure. These will be your companions over the course of the next year.

Once you get familiar with the material, you may experience the overwhelming feeling that is common to homeschool parents: “How will I ever cover all of this material?” You may be flooded with insecurities that you don’t know or remember the subject or content. All of these are normal thoughts and experiences for anyone who has homeschooled.

Remember the value of the journey you are on. Focus on the reasons you chose to homeschool in the first place, the daily interaction with your child, and teaching them how to learn. As the tutor, you as the parent don’t have to know all of the material. It’s fine to learn it with your child as you go through the material together. You are the guide for your child as you journey with them through the learning process.
**Overview**

The Prentice Hall The Reader’s Journey homeschool bundle includes the following components:
- Consumable Student Work Text
- Teacher Organizer Binder
  (Complete with Teacher’s Guides for all 6 Units)

*Prentice Hall The Reader’s Journey* is an innovative, novel-based, comprehensive Language Arts program. The program was developed using Grant Wiggins’ *Understanding by Design*® model - a common sense approach for connecting curriculum, instruction and assessment. (For more information about *Understanding by Design*, please visit PearsonUBD.com).

On this journey, your child will learn and practice essential reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills through active reading strategies. They will then apply these skills by reading high-interest novels leveled to match their reading abilities.

With six different novels (Anchor Books) at various reading levels per unit, this program gives you unmatched flexibility. You may also choose to select titles from your own library. For each unit, your child will read the Anchor Books independently, while learning new skills and concepts in the language arts curriculum. Then, your child will choose another book to read on their own (Free-Choice Book), to encourage and motivate them to continue reading. Enjoy the journey!

**Using the Materials**

Pearson curriculum materials are thoughtfully planned to present the subject in a way that is engaging. Each lesson builds upon itself, but provides flexibility so you can make it your own.

**Using the Student Work Text**

In the Student Work Text, your child will read real-world connections, and short and long passages in a variety of literature to apply the skills they are learning. Your child will then read the Anchor Book and follow along in the text to develop reading and comprehension skills. Choose a novel that matches your child’s reading level and interests. Then, have your child make a Free-Choice Book selection to read and make comparisons to the Anchor Book.

*“Understanding by Design” is registered as a trademark with the Patent and Trademark Office by the Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development (ASCD). ASCD has not authorized or sponsored this work and is in no way affiliated with Pearson or its products.*
Using the Teacher Organizer Binder and Teacher’s Guides

Your Teacher Organizer Binder begins with an overview booklet that describes the program, provides an overview of skills and concepts, and an index of skills for quick reference. The next six booklets are the individual unit’s Teacher’s Guides. Each Teacher’s Guide recommends teaching strategies, and includes lesson plans with pacing charts and planning guides. You will begin with a unit planner that details the standard pacing lesson plan. Next, you will find the Anchor Book options, with guidance on how to choose books for your child to read. Each unit identifies several Anchor Books that fit the unit’s Big Question and genre; however, you can also choose your own books. Use the list and context provided as a guide to choose an appropriate book that fits your child’s interests. The next section of the Teacher’s Guide includes the lesson plans for each section of the unit, to provide guidance for teaching the lessons, and tailoring the instruction to fit your child. As you progress through the Teacher’s Guide, you will find answers to the exercises within the Student Work Text, so you can provide immediate guidance and support. Your Teacher’s Guide corresponds to your child’s Student Work Text. Refer to the page numbers at the bottom of each page in the Teacher’s Guide for the corresponding page in your child’s text.

What is an Anchor Book? Anchor Books are the books students read while the curriculum unfolds. The program recommends six books for each unit. Not only do the books support the Big Question themes of the unit, but many are winners of prestigious awards such as the Newbery Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, and the Children’s Book Award for Young Adults. The table of contents shows how the Anchor Book is woven into the instruction.

Each grade level is broken into six units organized around a specific theme. Each unit begins with an exercise that draws on your child’s prior knowledge before proceeding into the specific lessons. Your child will then work through several exercises and reading passages to develop their skills. Next, your child will begin reading the Anchor Book and follow along in the Student Work Text, while working through related exercises that teach and review critical reading and literacy analysis skills. Each page of the Student Work Text has an indicator for following along with the Anchor Book, and highlighting which sections correspond to before, during or after reading the Anchor Book.

At the end of the unit, your child will be engaged with hands-on activities and projects based on the Anchor Book and have the chance to apply their learning with a Free-Choice Book.

Midway through, and at the end of each unit you will be able to assess your child’s progress. Take this opportunity to ensure that your child is on track and the pacing is appropriate. You can also monitor their daily progress and provide intervention as necessary.

Throughout the text you will find Go Online web codes that will offer extra online help. Simply:
- Go to www.phschool.com
- Enter the Web Code from a particular lesson
- Click Go!
Lesson Plans

Lesson plans are important to a successful homeschool environment. They help keep you on track, progress through the material and provide a steady structure for teaching your child. It is important to plan out your lessons but remember, lesson plans are a guide. You should leave room to adapt to your child and adjust the plan to ensure he or she understands the material. The objective is to have a tool you can use to watch your child progress and master the material you present over the school year.

Before you begin your lesson plan, review the materials to see how they are structured. There are a number of items to consider when preparing your plan. How many days per week will you have school? Do you plan to have extended breaks for the holidays or vacations? The number of children you have and their ages will affect how and what you can do as well.

Lesson plans in general should have certain vital components. A suggested list would include some or all of the following:

- the portion of text covered during the lesson
- main ideas of the lesson
- key concepts
- questions to ask
- activities to do
- potential field trip ideas
- assignments given
- materials and resources needed

Prentice Hall The Reader’s Journey includes lesson plans for all of the units. The lesson plan overview at the beginning of the book explains the skills to be taught, the reading passages or Anchor Book that support the lesson, and the standard pacing schedule for each section of the Student Work Text. Using the standard pacing schedule, each unit will cover 30 days and the course will cover 180 days with one hour lessons. As you and your child progress through the material, you can adjust this pace as needed.

Prior to beginning each unit, select the Anchor Book that your child will read. To help keep your child engaged, include him or her in the decision process. Look through the list, as well as the information for selecting your own book, and let your child select the most interesting selection. Should you choose one of the suggested Anchor Books, you can purchase these books on PearsonHomeschool.com. Otherwise, select a novel from your own collection or from the library. When selecting your own book, keep in mind the unit’s Big Question and genre in order to tie the lessons and the book together.

In the next section of the Teacher’s Guide are the lesson plans. Each lesson within the guide begins with a list of the objectives and identifies the portion of the Student Work Text that will be covered. Following the provided lesson plan, you will begin each lesson by building a background for the section and drawing on your child’s prior knowledge. This will help you identify your child’s current understanding and help focus on the areas where instruction is needed most.

Next, the Teach section provides information for teaching each of the lessons. The third section provides support for assessment to monitor your child’s understanding of the lesson. Here you will also find additional assignments for your child to work on their own. Occasionally, a “Mini-Lesson Opportunity” will follow this section and provide an exercise that deepens your child’s comprehension of the lesson’s skills.

The final section of the lesson plan includes ideas for differentiated instruction – helpful tips for reaching all types of learners. Reference this section if your child is struggling with any of the concepts, or if your advanced student needs to be further challenged.
Adapt the Curriculum to Fit your Situation

One of the great benefits of homeschooling is that you know everything you teach will be personalized to fit your child. *Prentice Hall The Reader’s Journey* is designed for personalized instruction – students choose the books they are interested in, keeping them engaged throughout the course, and making lessons relevant. Moreover, lesson plans and skill exercises provide plenty of opportunities to be creative and choose projects that align to their interests.

**Pacing**

Whether your child needs in-depth instruction or works at an advanced pace, *Prentice Hall The Reader’s Journey* fits. Each lesson plan offers multiple pacing suggestions, designed to fit your schedule. Additionally, throughout the course, you will be able to provide additional focus on concepts and skills where needed.

**Teaching is Everywhere**

Each unit has several ideas for engaging your child, but don’t limit the instruction to just these suggestions. Use this as a starting point and incorporate your child’s interests. Relate the lessons and activities to their favorite sports, hobbies, and other interests to keep them engaged. If your child prefers a sports subject instead of the suggested topic, just swap out the subject and follow the same structure for the exercise. Additionally, as you work through the Big Question within the unit, look for situations in your daily life to use as examples. With subjects that cover *truth, conflict, and community*, finding similar situations in your daily life is easy to do. One of the great benefits of homeschooling is that the scope of education is entirely within your control to expand and tailor to your child.

**Conflicting Materials**

Any homeschool parent will be faced with the dilemma of what to do when you come across material in the curriculum you don’t like or that you disagree with. No curriculum will ever be able to satisfy all of the beliefs, opinions or values held by each family. However, there are several approaches you can take in these situations.

One approach is to skip over the material in question. Another suggestion would be to use this as an opportunity for a special teachable moment. Review the material with your child. Discuss your feelings about the material, idea or value presented. Take the opportunity to prepare your child for the diversity of thought/opinion in the world and the need to be discerning of principles and ideas that may challenge yours.

There is a definite balance between having the freedom that homeschooling brings and the responsibility you assume in educating your child. The good news is that most families find that balance and it works for them.
Thank you

As you progress along the journey, you will have moments of frustration and moments that make it all worthwhile. Remember to keep it in perspective. Homeschool parents live for those moments when their children are most teachable. You will know when those moments happen as you can see the light go on, they really get it. Cherish those times and use them as the fuel to motivate you through the tough times.

Thank you for choosing Pearson as a partner in your homeschool journey. We know the importance that you place in taking the time to teach your child and we appreciate your trust in us to help you and your child achieve the best education possible.

For additional programs to support your child’s language arts curriculum, please visit our website at:


For product related questions, please contact 1-800-848-9500 or submit the Contact Us form available on our website.