

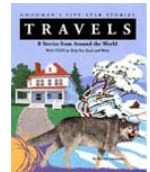
Florida Center for Reading Research

Jamestown Education's
Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs

What is Five-Star Stories?

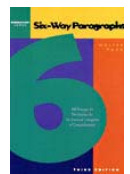
Developed with the goal of improving students' reading and literature skills, *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories* is a set of supplemental reading materials. This collection of 18 high-interest, short-story anthologies is suitable for students in grades 5 to 12, Adult Basic Education, and English Language Learners. Teaching notes suggest that the books may be used for homework assignments or in-class work, and minimal suggestions for teacher scaffolding of reading are included. The series may be used in a whole class, small group, or one-on-one format and scheduling is at the teacher's discretion.

Titles include *Travels, Adventures, Chills, Shocks, Twists, Encounters, Conflicts, Choices, and Discoveries*. Progressing from 1st to 10th grade readability, each level contains two books of 8-18 stories and each leveled set provides exercises built around an acronym focusing on reading comprehension, vocabulary, literary elements, and critical thinking skills. For example, the 20 stories in *Adventures and More Adventures* are followed by questions organized under the acronym, TALES: Tell about the story, Add words to sentences, Learn new words, Explain what happened, and Spot story elements. A Progress Chart at the end of each book is provided for students to record their scores on each story's set of exercises.



What are Six-Way Paragraphs and Six-Way Paragraphs in the Content Areas?

Jamestown Education's Six-Way Paragraphs and Six-Way Paragraphs in the Content Areas are supplemental reading practice materials designed to increase middle and high school students' understanding and enjoyment of nonfiction writing and to support students' learning how to read in the content areas. *Six-Way Paragraphs* is comprised of three books of 100 nonfiction passages that can be used individually by students or with a teacher one-on-one, in small-groups, or whole class. The introductory, middle and advanced leveled books progress from 1st to 12th grade-plus readability levels with 20-25 passages on each level. *Six-Way Paragraphs in the Content Area* consists of 3 books of 100 passages related to one of four content areas: humanities, social studies, science, or mathematics. The introductory, middle and advanced leveled books progress from 4th to 12th grade-plus readability levels with 25 passages on each level.



In both series, six questions incorporate main idea, subject matter, supporting details, conclusions, clarifying devices, and vocabulary in context. These questions follow each passage to provide practice for improving the reader's comprehension. Approximately 10 pages of instructions 'to the student' preface each book with detailed descriptions and examples of each of the six types of questions they are expected to answer after they read the passages, and tips on how to get the most out of the books. Brief 'to the teacher' instructions in the same preface describe the leveled passages, the questions, and the progress monitoring chart where students record their progress after they self-score their responses. An assessment is not provided for student placement.

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How are the Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs aligned with current reading research?

Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs are not instructional reading programs, but sets of supplemental practice materials. Although not aligned with each of the five critical components of reading instruction, these sets of materials do provide nominal support for the comprehension component. The National Reading Panel (2000) found seven categories of instruction that appear to have a firm scientific basis for improving comprehension. These are comprehension monitoring, cooperative learning, the use of graphic and semantic organizers, question answering and generating, summarizing, and the use of multiple strategies. In *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs*, exercises following each passage provide practice to support reading comprehension through understanding the main idea, subject matter, supporting details, conclusion, clarifying devices, and vocabulary in context. Though minimal instructional suggestions are provided, of concern within both series is the lack of consistent, teacher friendly instructional routines which include explicit instruction, modeling, guided practice, student practice and application with feedback. These materials should not be used as a stand alone program for improving reading comprehension in older readers, because they do not provide sufficient guidance for systematic and explicit instruction in reading comprehension strategies. However, they may be useful as texts to provide interesting narrative and expository reading materials for students who are receiving another source of explicit teacher guided instruction to improve reading comprehension.

Professional development is not offered specifically for *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs*.

Research Support for Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs



No empirical research has been conducted to document the effectiveness of *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs* as material that can be used to support instruction in comprehension. However, use of these materials is consistent with research suggesting that students, particularly struggling readers, profit from reading practice using interesting materials written at an appropriate level of difficulty.

Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths of *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs*:

- Provide a collection of fiction and non-fiction text.
- Leveled texts help teachers match students to text for independent reading practice.
- Selections may be useful for students who are learning English as a second language.

Weaknesses of *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs*:

- None were noted.

Which Florida districts have schools that implement *Jamestown Education's Five-Star Stories and Six-Way Paragraphs*?

Goodman's Five Star Stories

Alachua	352-955-7880	Lake	352-253-6510
Broward	754-321-2600	Liberty	850-643-2275
Dade	305-995-1430	Orange	407-317-3202
DeSoto	863-494-4222	Palm Beach	561-434-8200
Dixie	352-498-6131	Pasco	813-794-2651
Duval	904-390-2115	Pinellas	727-588-6011
Hernando	352-797-7001	Seminole	407-320-0006
Hillsborough	813-272-4050		

Six Way Paragraphs

Alachua	352-955-7880	Lee	239-337-8301
Bay	850-872-7700	Leon	850-487-7147
Broward	754-321-2600	Manatee	941-708-8770
Calhoun	850-674-5927	Orange	407-317-3202
Collier	239-377-0212	Osceola	407-870-4008
Clay	904-284-6510	Palm Beach	561-434-8200
Dade	305-995-1430	Pasco	813-794-2651
Desoto	863-494-4222	Pinellas	727-588-6011
Duval	904-390-2115	Polk	863-534-0521
Escambia	850-469-6130	Santa Rosa	850-983-5010
Hernando	352-797-7001	Sarasota	941-927-9000
Hillsborough	813-272-4050	Seminole	407-320-0006

For More Information

http://www.glencoe.com/gln/jamestown/reading_fiction/goodman_stories.php

http://www.glencoe.com/gln/jamestown/content_area_reading/six_way_paragraphs.php

References

National Reading Panel (2000). *Teaching children to read: An evidence-based assessment of the scientific research literature on reading and its implications for reading instruction*. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Washington, D.C.



Lead Reviewer: Lila Rissman, M.S.

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Important Note: FCRR Reports are prepared in response to requests from Florida school districts for review of specific reading programs. The reports are intended to be a source of information about programs that will help teachers, principals, and district personnel in their choice of materials that can be used by skilled teachers to provide effective instruction. Whether or not a program has been reviewed does **not** constitute endorsement or lack of endorsement by the FCRR.

For more information about FCRR go to: www.fcrr.org

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