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FOR THE TEACHER



What is *Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies™ (CARS™)*?

CARS is a diagnostic reading series that gives students practice in 12 reading strategies, as well as allowing for their self-assessment. *CARS* allows teachers to identify and assess a student's level of mastery with each of 12 reading strategies. This six-level program is designed for students from grade 3 to year 8.

Each student book in the *CARS* program contains ten lessons, which include reading passages in a variety of literary genres. Following each reading passage are 12 selected-response questions. Each question focuses on a specific reading strategy.

In *CARS, Book 6*, students read the following genres:

- science article
- biography
- fable
- book review
- letter to the editor
- information article
- poem
- instructions for writing a research report
- essay
- short story

In *CARS, Book 6*, students practise the following 12 reading strategies:

- finding main idea
- recalling facts and details
- understanding sequence
- recognising cause and effect
- comparing and contrasting
- making predictions
- finding word meaning in context
- drawing conclusions and making inferences
- distinguishing between fact and opinion
- identifying author's purpose
- interpreting figurative language
- summarising

What is in the student book?

Each student book contains

- ten lessons; each lesson provides a reading passage and 12 selected-response questions
- two self-assessment forms for students; students complete Self-assessment 1 after Lessons 1–5 and Self-assessment 2 after Lessons 6–10

- two assessment forms for teachers; teachers complete Teacher Assessment 1 and Teacher Assessment 2 after Lessons 1–10 have been completed and corrected
- an Answer Form; students use the Answer Form to record their answers

What is in the teacher guide?

Each teacher guide contains

- suggestions and instruction for using the *CARS* program effectively in the classroom
- Understanding the Strategies, an instructional reproducible for use with students in the classroom
- reproducibles of the student assessments and teacher assessments that appear in the student book
- a reproducible Class Performance Chart for recording class results
- a completed Answer Form

Where do students record their answers?

It is essential that students record their answers on the Answer Form on page 37. Ask students to detach the form and fill in the personal information section. Next to each item number on the Answer Form is an abbreviation that identifies the strategy. Once you have a student's completed Answer Form, total the number of correct responses for each strategy. Then transfer these totals to Teacher Assessment 1 to begin the assessment process.

What is the correction procedure?

For the best results, correct each lesson orally with students immediately following its completion. Explain concepts that students may not fully understand. Discuss why correct answer choices are correct and why the remaining choices are not correct. If possible, elicit from students their reasoning for choosing an incorrect answer. Incorrect answer choices often include a variety of misunderstandings about the question. Discussing why choices are correct and incorrect will help students review and clarify how they approached a particular strategy.