

# Elementary Literacy

In Spring 2016, St. Vrain Valley Schools completed the two-year process of selecting a new keystone curricular resource for elementary literacy instruction. Through selection and pilot processes driven by classroom teachers - including input from community members as well as the biliteracy, special education, and professional development offices - the district selected ReadyGen to aid teachers in building effective holistic practices. This adoption represents a key shift and renewed dedication within the district to help our youngest learners understand the connections between reading and writing, while building the complex habits of thinking key to lifelong success.

## Important aspects of ReadyGen:

### **STRONG ALIGNMENT TO THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS.**

From kindergarten through fifth grade, each ReadyGen resource is aligned with the key academic standards driving instructional practice within St. Vrain Valley Schools.

### **LEARNING IN CONTEXT.**

Rather than asking students to read and write in isolation and without context, these new resources help teachers assist students in seeing and drawing complex connections between their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking skills. One key shift families may notice is how students are learning new vocabulary. While most adults may remember lists of spelling words sent home each week to be memorized out of context, we are adopting a more student-centered approach. Students will encounter words within anchor texts and lessons, practice their use in small group lessons, and then apply their new learning in short and extended writing samples. This approach enriches the learning of new words and their uses connected to actual meaning and rooted in children's experiences as readers and writers.

### **DEPTH AND RIGOR OF CONTENT.**

While many instructional resources are based within textbooks, each component of ReadyGen is anchored in a complex, engaging book such as those families would find in local libraries and bookstores. With 12 of such high-quality texts aligned to content for each grade level, this greatly increases students' opportunities to interact with and think about texts as readers and writers.

### **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT.**

Along with these sets of anchor texts, ReadyGen includes an array of supporting texts and teacher materials providing teachers with multiple means to capture students' interests, and for helping students find their ways into texts.

### **PERSONALIZED LEARNING EXPERIENCES.**

St. Vrain's elementary students will have opportunities, in all classrooms, for whole and small group lessons that support their individual needs while providing them with multiple opportunities to experience key ideas to demonstrate their learning.

### **MODERN SKILLS - INFORMATIONAL LITERACY & STEM APPLICATION.**

Through quality teaching, the ReadyGen resources call upon all students to connect evidence from the texts they read into their writing - whether a reader response, argumentative writing, narrative creation, or any of the other writing expectations set forth in the Colorado Academic Standards.

### **TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS IN CLASSROOMS AND HOMES.**

In addition to physical printed copies of ReadyGen materials, students and teachers will have digital access to these resources. Having multiple means of accessing texts will help families reinforce literacy practices in the home. Additionally, technology-enabled learning experiences will allow for accommodations and modifications of lessons and assessments for all students - no matter their individual learning needs.

### **LEARN MORE ONLINE AT:**

[HTTP://STVRA.IN/READYGEN](http://stvra.in/readygen)

**WATCH THE READYGEN INTRO VIDEO:**

[HTTP://STVRA.IN/READYGENVID](http://stvra.in/readygenvid)

The ReadyGen resources provide students with authentic, integrated reading and writing experiences from the very start of their lives as readers and writers. We are excited to put these new resources into the hands of students, teachers, and families. Together with high-quality teaching practices, this represents yet another step forward in instructional excellence within St. Vrain Schools.