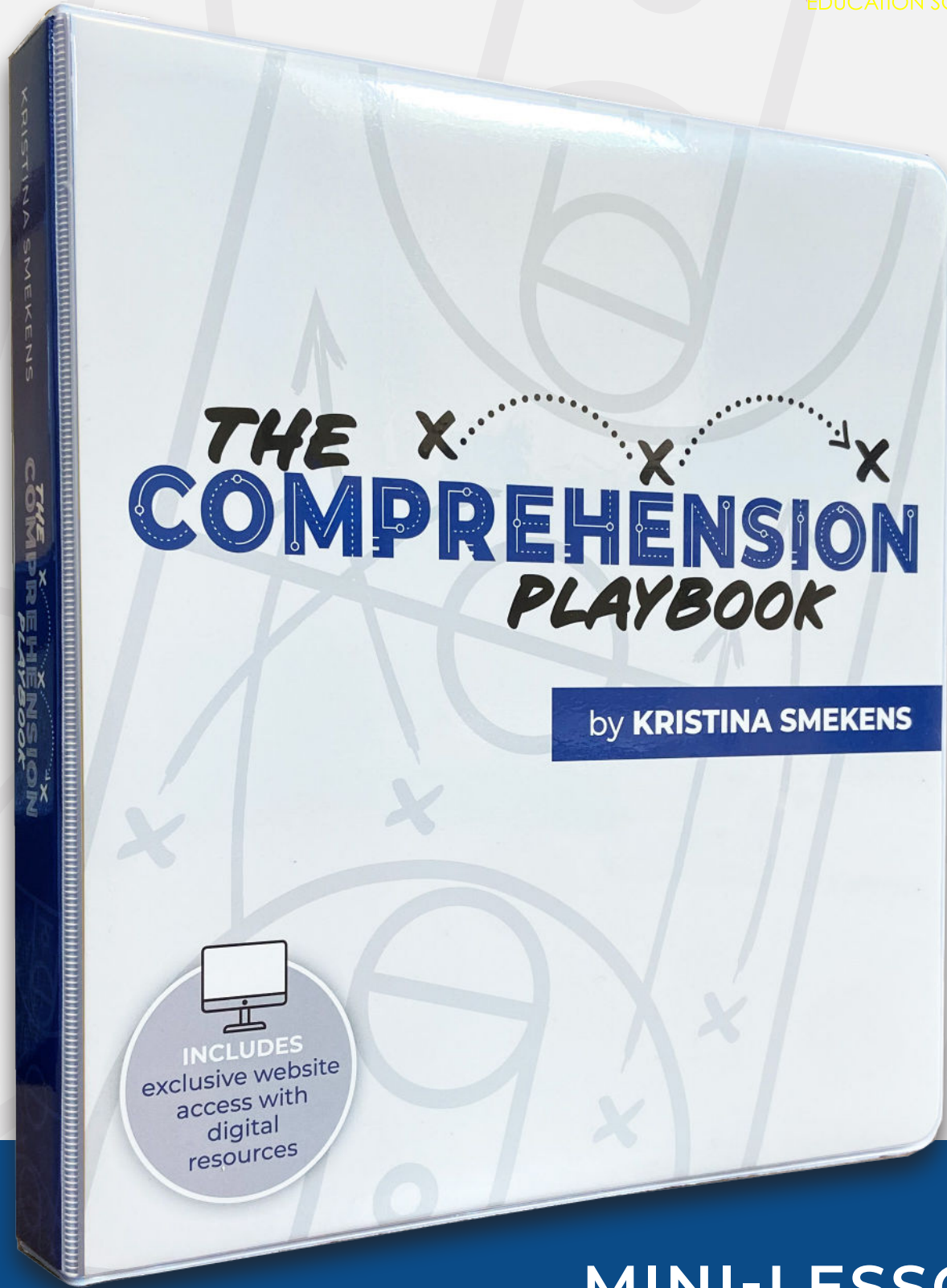




**MINI-LESSONS
TO BUILD
BETTER READERS**

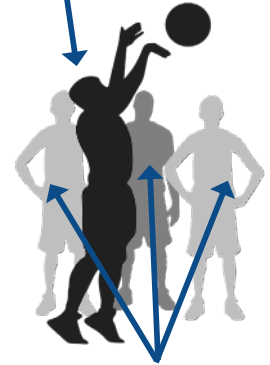
THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAYBOOK

Many teachers confess to *doing* a lot of reading but not necessarily *teaching* reading. Pausing to ask questions during reading and guiding students to the text-based answers is an important facet of building readers. However, these are not lessons—these are read alouds.

Think of the reading teacher through the lens of an athletic coach. Whole-class comprehension lessons include the teacher (the coach) breaking down the steps to execute a single, new comprehension skill. In a lesson, the teacher (the coach) does the reading and the thinking; the students (the players) watch and listen.

This is the gradual-release model in action. A coach can't expect his players to execute a play during a game unless he has broken it down himself, taught it explicitly, and given the players lots of opportunities to practice it. Similarly, a teacher can't ask a comprehension question or assign a reading task (i.e., *You do*) until he has first broken down the skill explicitly (i.e., *I do*) and given the players several scrimmage opportunities (i.e., *We do*).

This is you, the teacher, delivering direct instruction.



These are the **readers**, observing the expert show them *how* to do it.



Learn more about
*The Comprehension
Playbook* on our
website.

Just as an athletic coach operates from a tried-and-true book of plays, teachers need their own playbook for leading successful whole-class reading comprehension instruction. Supporting a full year of lesson concepts, *The Comprehension Playbook* provides easy-to-follow guidance on which comprehension skills to teach per grade range. The compilation of "plays" teaches students to:

- Ask & answer questions.
- Retell/Summarize literature.
- Retell/Summarize informational text.
- Track ideas across a text.
- See text organization
- Analyze author choices.
- Compare texts and experiences.
- Synthesize ideas across texts.



MEET THE AUTHOR

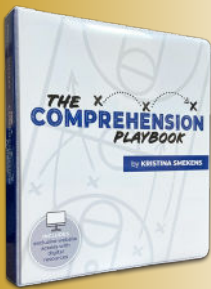
A celebrated educator, author, and literacy consultant, Kristina Smekens has built a reputation for using enthusiasm, humor, and common sense to equip K-12 educators with simple and effective strategies for teaching reading and writing.

As president and lead consultant for Smekens Education, Kristina is constantly developing new strategies to help teachers meet the demands of today's College and Career-Ready Standards. She shares those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site professional development, seminars, and an always-growing pool of print, digital, and video resources.

Kristina has a gift for making the complex seem simple—for showing teachers how to meet the needs of readers and writers by bridging the gap between education research and classroom-tested strategies that work.

Supporting the **Science of Reading** with strategies to teach language comprehension

Language Comprehension



Background Knowledge
Vocabulary Knowledge
Language Structure
Literacy Knowledge
Verbal Reasoning

Word Recognition

Decoding
Phonological Awareness
Sight Recognition

Scarborough's **READING ROPE**

(2001)

SKILLED READING

Fluent execution and coordination of word recognition and text.

WHAT'S INCLUDED



Your grade-specific comprehension plays:

- ✓ A list of the College and Career-Ready Standards that support the skill
- ✓ A vision for spiraling and layering instruction throughout the year
- ✓ A detailed description of explicit points to make per instructional round
- ✓ A suggested full-color anchor chart to build and grow throughout the year
- ✓ Text considerations that support each lesson series

Lifetime access to digital resources:

- ✓ Grade-specific anchor chart walk-throughs
- ✓ Resources to help you implement each comprehension "play"
- ✓ Related articles and videos to deepen your understanding
- ✓ Customizable road maps for teaching reading comprehension
- ✓ Ready-to-use Google Docs, PDFs, JPEGs, and more



What other teachers are saying about the *Playbook*:

"The Playbook has provided a structured framework for my classroom that allows me to teach my readers HOW TO read at a deeper level... This playbook includes standards broken into manageable chunks for students and teachers to access the content in a purposeful way."

CARMEN YAGOW
4th grade teacher

"The idea of anchor charts was never really strategy taught at the high school level, but I feel I have some great ideas on how to incorporate them even when teaching different English classes."

TRACY COX
High school teacher

"The Playbook was a positive guide on how to organize comprehension for my classroom. There are so many standards, and this gave me the tool needed to feel organized and not overwhelmed."

RAVEN CHANDLER
3rd grade teacher

"From day one of implementation, they have soared...this was the best thing I could have ever done to help my kids comprehend what they are reading!"

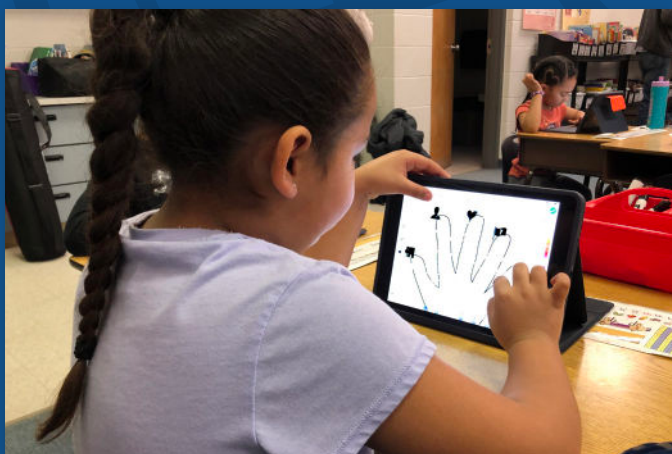
JESSICA BROVONT
6th grade teacher

"The Playbook has allowed seamless instruction, with countless additional resources, for all parts of comprehension instruction and learning!"

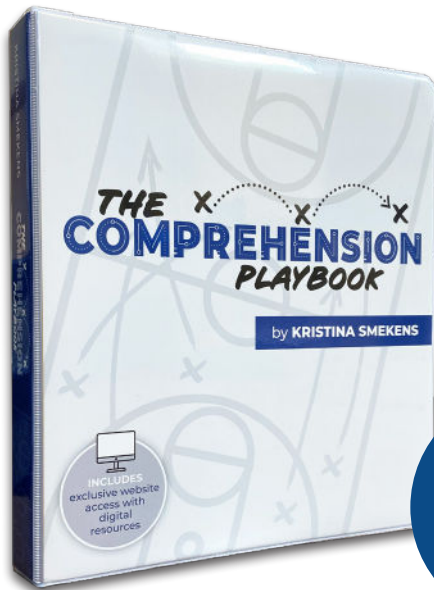
JENNA MCDOLE
K-5 Resource Teacher

"I believe the quality of my instruction has improved considerably...With the Playbook, the students are building their skills gradually, and they are working at a higher level than before."

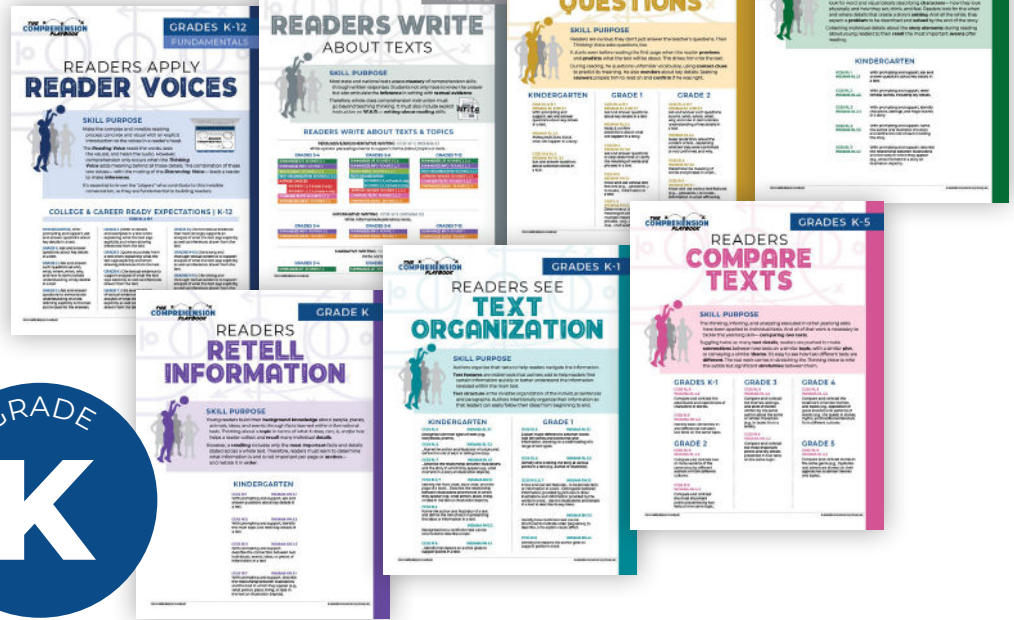
ALICE RYAN
3rd grade teacher



THE COMPREHENSION PLAYBOOK | GRADE-LEVEL PLAYBOOKS



GRADE
K

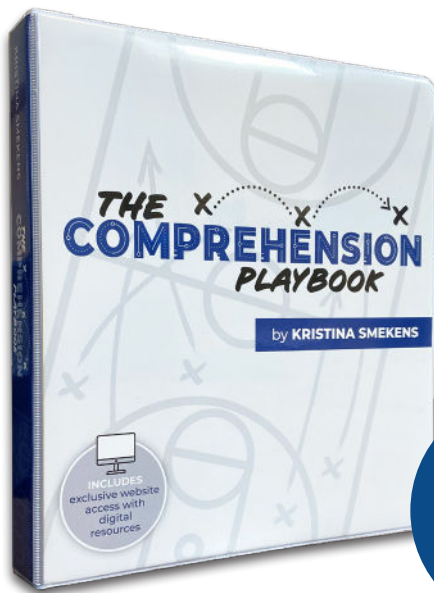


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Readers Ask & Answer Questions (K-2)
Readers Retell Information (K)

Readers Retell Literature (K)
Readers See Text Organization (K-1)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)



GRADE
1



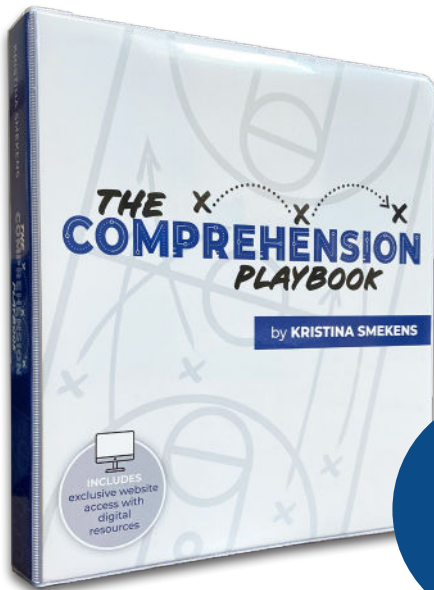
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Readers See Text Organization (K-1)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)

THE COMPREHENSION PLAYBOOK | GRADE-LEVEL PLAYBOOKS



GRADE
2

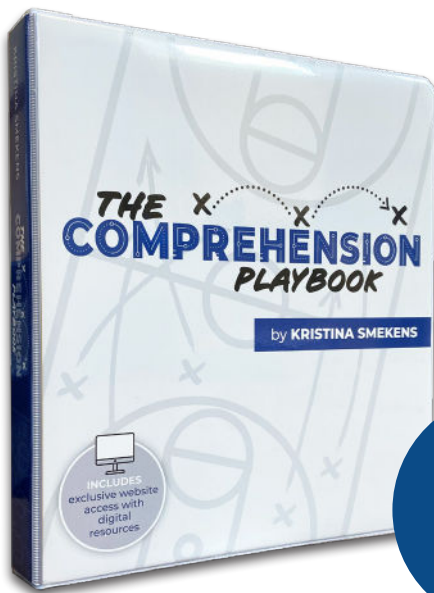


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Readers Retell Information (1-2)

Readers Retell Literature (1-2)
Readers See Text Organization (2-3)
Readers Analyze Author Choices (2-3)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)



GRADE
3



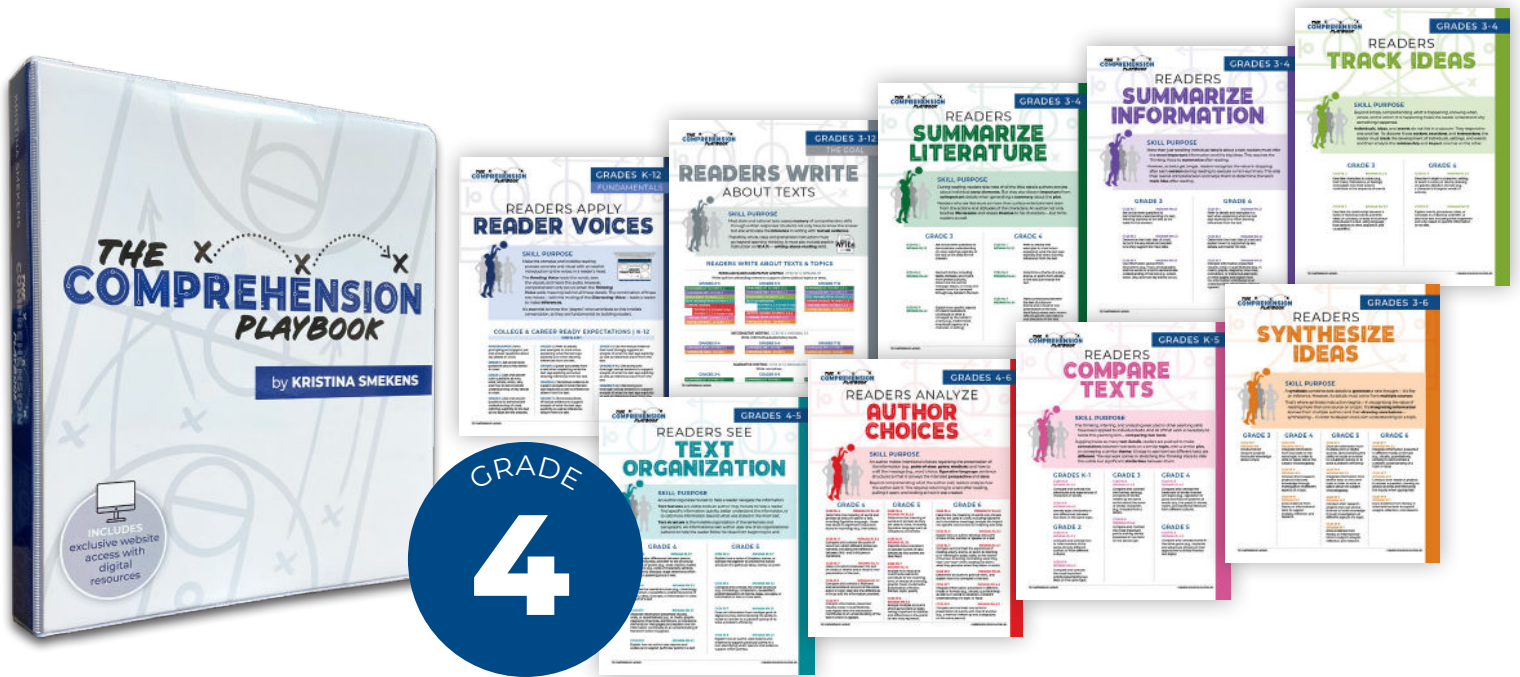
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Readers Summarize Literature (3-4)
Readers Summarize Information (3-4)
Readers Track Ideas (3-4)

Readers See Text Organization (2-3)
Readers Analyze Author Choices (2-3)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)
Readers Synthesize Ideas (3-6)

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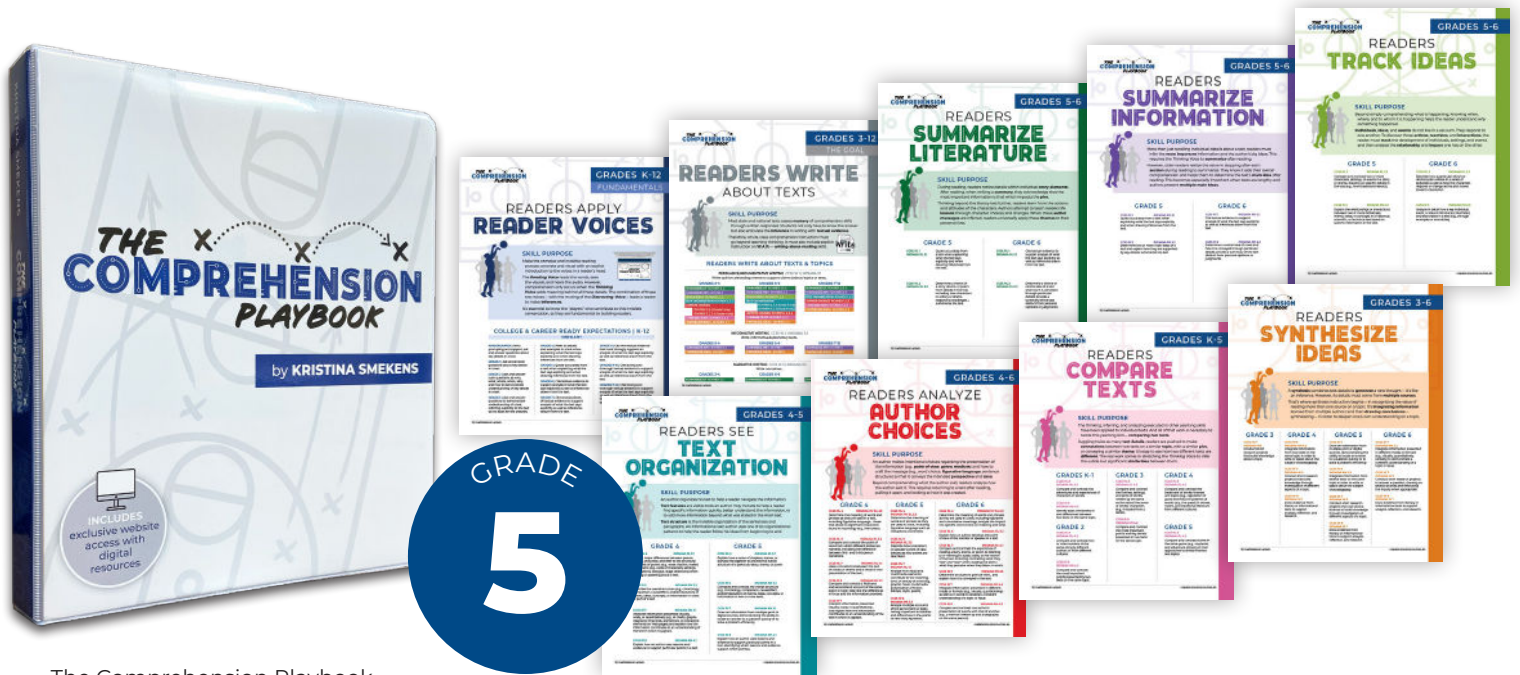


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Readers See Text Organization (4-5)
Readers Analyze Author Choices (4-6)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)
Readers Synthesize Ideas (3-6)



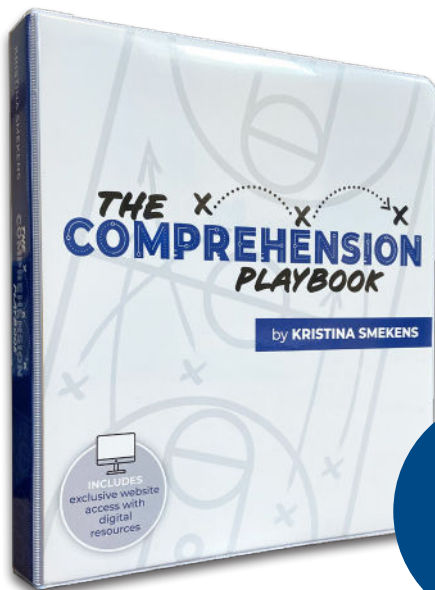
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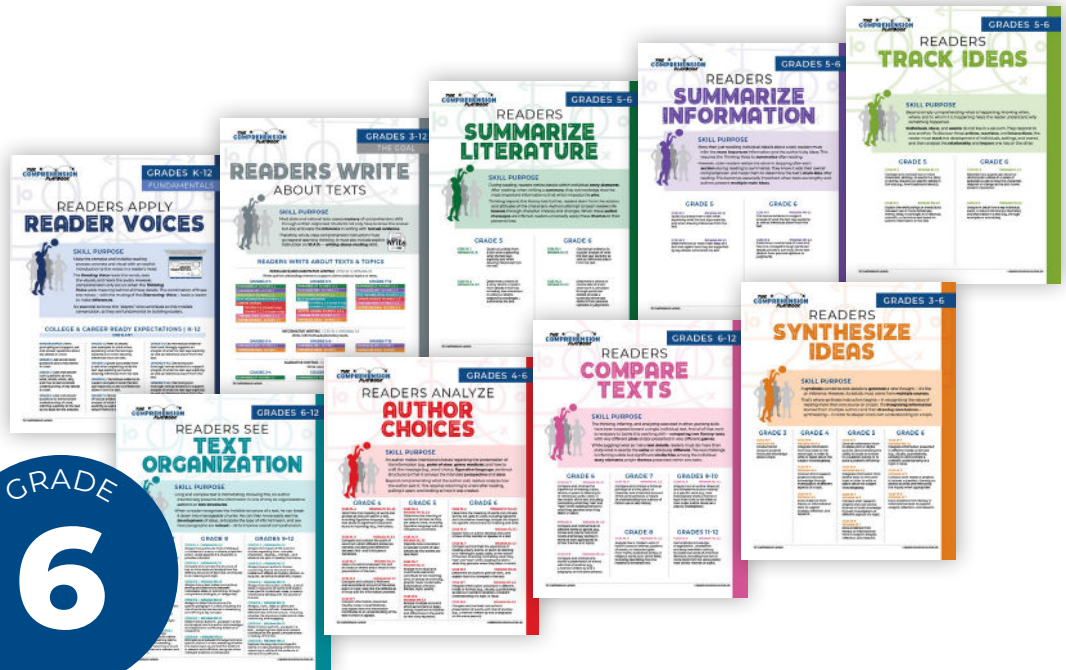
Readers Apply Reader Voices (K-12)
Readers Write About Texts (K-12)
Readers Summarize Literature (5-6)
Readers Summarize Information (5-6)
Readers Track Ideas (5-6)

Readers See Text Organization (4-5)
Readers Analyze Author Choices (4-6)
Readers Compare Texts (K-5)
Readers Synthesize Ideas (3-6)

THE COMPREHENSION PLAYBOOK | GRADE-LEVEL PLAYBOOKS



GRADE
6

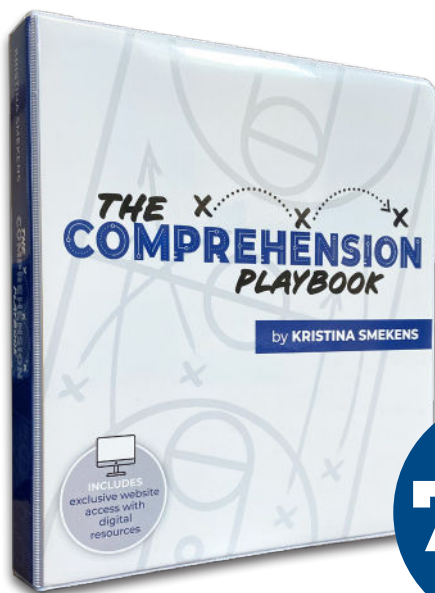


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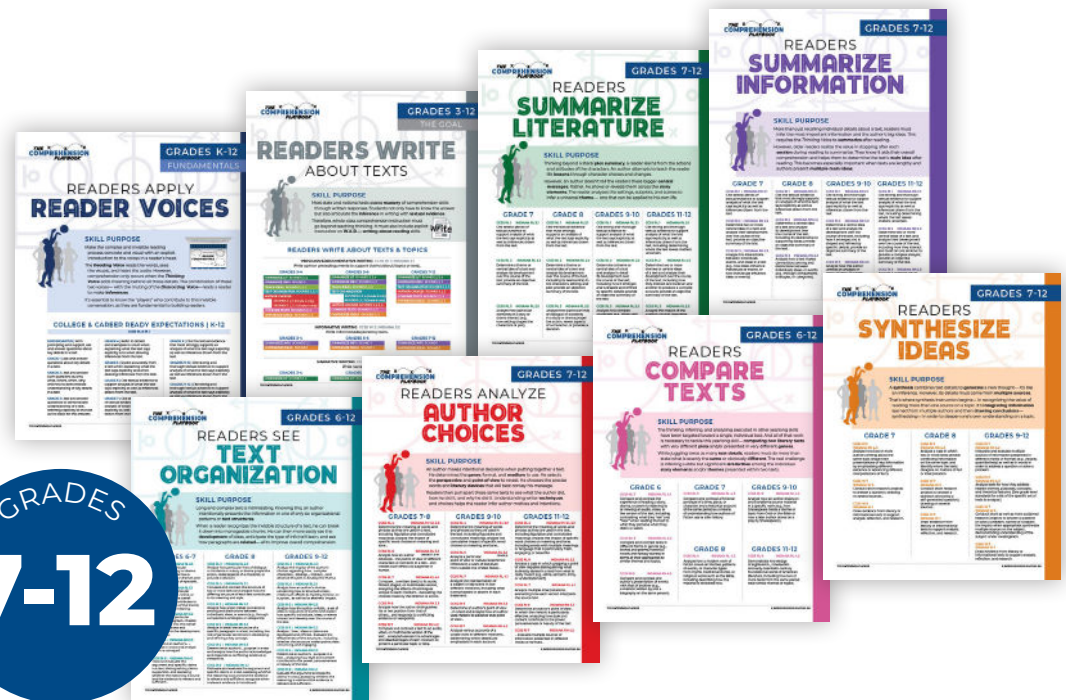
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Readers Track Ideas (5-6)

Readers See Text Organization (6-12)
Readers Analyze Author Choices (4-6)
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GRADES
7-12



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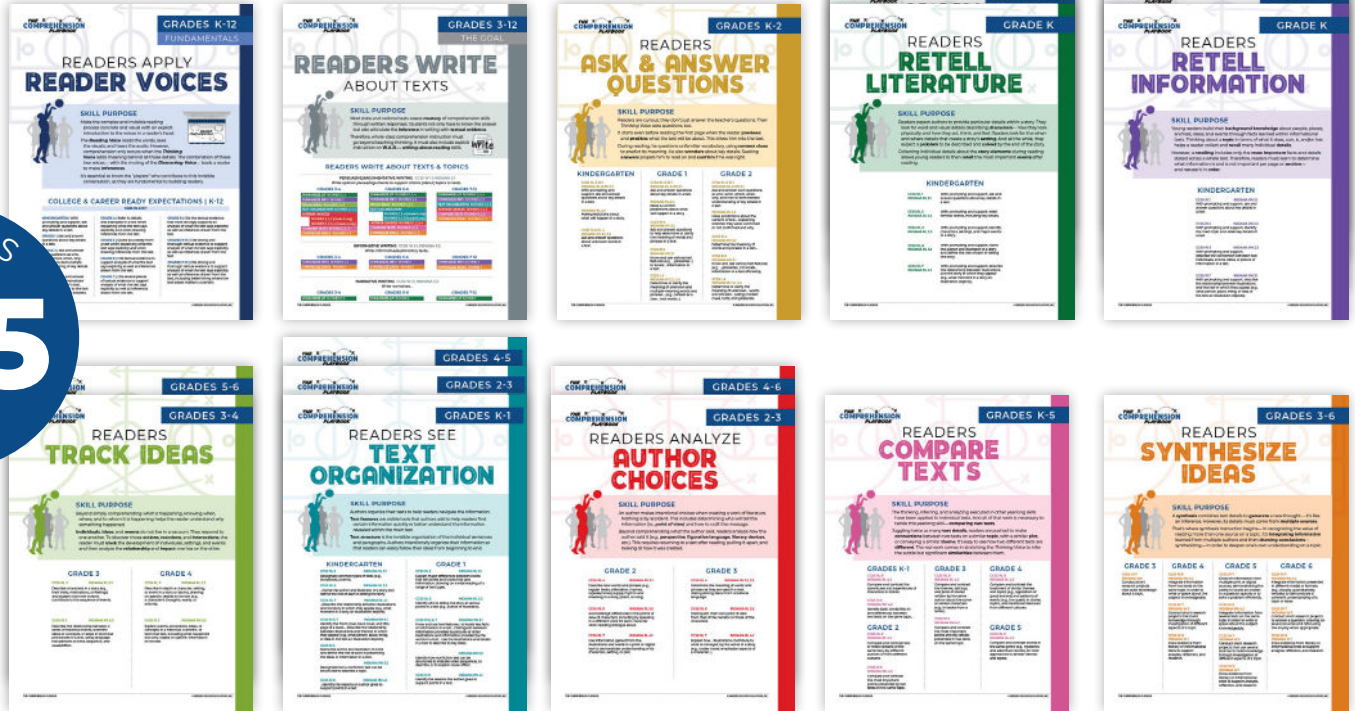
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Readers Analyze Author Choices (7-12)
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GRADES
K-5

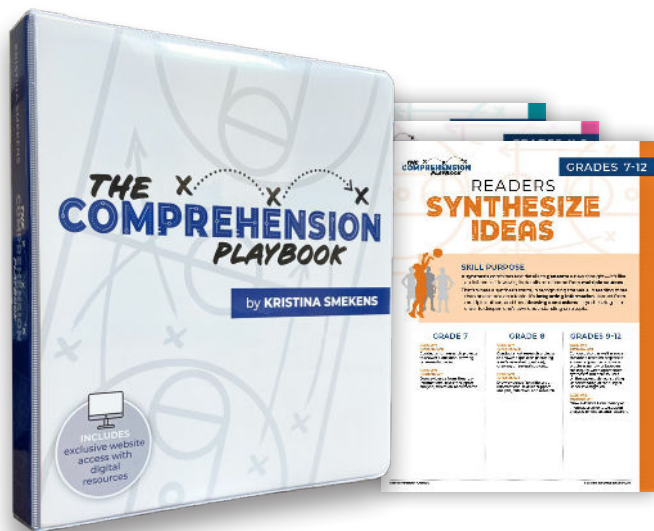


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