



Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3

By Joyce VanTassel-Baska Ed.D., Center for Gifted Education, Tamra Stambaugh Ph.D.

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The *Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program* targets reading comprehension skills in high-ability learners by moving students through an inquiry process from basic understanding to critical analyses of texts, using a field-tested method developed by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary. Students in grades 2–6 will learn to comprehend and analyze any reading passage after completing the activities in these books.

In the form of three skill ladders connected to individual readings in poetry, myths/fables, and nonfiction, students move from lower order, concrete thinking skills to higher order, critical thinking skills. Each book, geared to increasing grade levels, includes high-interest readings, ladders to increase reading skill development, and easy-to-implement instruction. The ladders include multiple skills necessary for academic success, covering language arts standards, such as sequencing, cause and effect, classification, making generalizations, inference, and recognizing themes and concepts.

Jacob's Ladder, Level 1 is geared to students in grades 2–3, Level 2 is aimed at learners in grades 4–5, and Level 3 is based on skill development standards for students in grades 6–8. However, each book may be used across grade levels to provide increasing levels of difficulty in mastering reading comprehension.

The *Jacob's Ladder* guides provide teachers with an explanation of the nature and substance of supplementary tasks in reading comprehension that will help prepare students for their state assessment tests. At the same time, these tasks will move them from basic reading comprehension to more critical reading behaviors. Also included are an overview of the goals and objectives of Jacob's Ladder tasks and suggestions for implementation, giving every teacher of gifted readers the tools needed to create a successful reading classroom.

Grades 5–6

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Editorial Review

Review

I find that *Jacob's Ladder* is easy to use and thoroughly enjoy how it helps light a spark in my children. They truly do not consider working on *Jacob's Ladder* to be school work; for them, this is a treat . . . It engages higher order thinking and takes the children far beyond the texts they are reading . . . This is the first comprehension program that I've seen that I can wholeheartedly recommend. While it's targeted at gifted children, I think that all children will enjoy this program as you can guide the answers as deeply or as shallowly as you wish. If you have children, who like mine, love to engage in philosophizing, this is definitely a program they would enjoy. --Homeschooled Twins blog - June 8, 2010

About the Author

Joyce VanTassel-Baska is Professor Emerita at The College of William and Mary, where she founded the Center for Gifted Education. Formerly she initiated and directed the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University. Joyce has also served as state director of gifted programs in Illinois, a regional director, a local coordinator of gifted programs, and a teacher of gifted high school students. Her major research interests are in the talent development process and effective curricular interventions with the gifted.

She is the author of 22 books and has written more than 500 other publications on gifted education. She was the editor of *Gifted and Talented International* for several years and received the Distinguished Scholar Award in 1997 from the National Association for Gifted Children and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia in 1993. She received the Distinguished Alumna Achievement Award from the University of Toledo in 2003, the President's Award from the World Council on Gifted and Talented in 2005, and the Collaboration and Diversity Service Award from CEC-TAG in 2007.

Tamra Stambaugh, Ph.D., is a research assistant professor of special education and director of Programs for Talented Youth at Vanderbilt University. Her current research interests include the impact of accelerated curriculum on student achievement, teacher effectiveness, and talent development factors-especially for students of poverty.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Deemer:

This Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. That Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 can bring any time you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cell phone. This Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 having fine arrangement in word as

well as layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Terry Grissom:

Reading can be called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 your mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a publication then become one application from conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 giving you yet another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shell out spare time activity?

Loretta Manson:

This Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 is brand new way for you who has attention to look for some information mainly because it relieves your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you on it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little digest in reading this Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program - Level 3 can be the light food in your case because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there is absolutely no reserve especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you. So, don't miss that! Just read this e-book type for your better life and knowledge.

Rose Taylor:

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