tumbleweed

Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions • Supplemental Reading Language Arts

IMRA PUBLISHER RESPONSE

100%	71/71 • 66/66	#1
TEKS alignment across every grade reviewed	Perfect Learning Quality scores	Highest overall scores among Supplemental Reading Language Arts publishers reviewed

Tumbleweed Publishing is grateful to the Texas Education Agency, IMRA reviewers, and members of the public for their thoughtful and rigorous evaluation of Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions. We are proud that Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions earned 100% TEKS alignment across every grade level reviewed and perfect scores in every evaluated Learning Quality section. These results reflect the purpose for which the program was created: to provide students who still need foundational reading support with explicit, evidence-based instruction without limiting their access to rich language, knowledge, meaningful text, and rigorous thinking.

BUILT FOR STRIVING READERS

Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions was built for striving readers in Grades 2–8 who are too often overlooked. A student may still need explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, fluency, or advanced word study without needing materials that look or feel designed for a much younger learner.

Tumbleweed pairs appropriately targeted instruction with engaging, age-respectful content so students can receive the support they need while continuing to experience the language, knowledge, relevance, and cognitive challenge they deserve.

"We make the text accessible without making the learning less rigorous."

GROUNDED IN READING RESEARCH

The instructional design of Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions reflects converging research on how students learn to read. Explicit, systematic foundational skills instruction is intentionally integrated with connected-text practice, fluency, advanced word study, vocabulary and morphology, syntax, background knowledge, comprehension, and inferential thinking.

Rather than treating word recognition and language comprehension as competing priorities, Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions develops them together, recognizing that skilled reading requires both increasingly automatic word recognition and the language, knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension necessary to make meaning from text.

Students have repeated opportunities to apply developing word-reading skills in meaningful connected text while simultaneously expanding vocabulary, building knowledge, examining language, discussing ideas, and strengthening comprehension. Instruction is explicit and systematic, while the intellectual work remains appropriately rigorous.

Teacher materials provide clear instructional routines, purposeful practice, assessment opportunities, and guidance for responsive small-group instruction. Professional learning and implementation support further help educators understand not only how to use the materials, but the instructional purpose behind them.

VALIDATED THROUGH IMRA

The IMRA reviewer results provide meaningful independent validation of the program's instructional design. Across Grades 1–5, Reading Expeditions achieved 100% TEKS alignment and perfect scores in every evaluated Learning Quality section: 71/71 in Grades 1–2 and 66/66 in Grades 3–5.

Based on the public TEA IMRA reports for the Supplemental Reading Language Arts review, Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions earned the highest overall scores among supplemental publishers reviewed in this cycle. These results reinforce Tumbleweed's commitment to developing instructional materials that are evidence-aligned, usable in real classrooms, engaging for students, and appropriate for the educators and learners they are designed to serve.

Grades	TEKS	Learning Quality	Suitability Excellence
1	100%	71/71	48
2	100%	71/71	49
3	100%	66/66	48
4	100%	66/66	48
5	100%	66/66	48

EVIDENCE, EFFECTIVENESS & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions is grounded in a substantial body of reading research and evidence supporting explicit and systematic foundational skills instruction; orthographic mapping and automatic word recognition; fluency development; morphology and vocabulary instruction; syntax and language comprehension; knowledge building; comprehension; and responsive intervention.

Tumbleweed will continue to strengthen the product-specific evidence base for the program through ongoing research, implementation feedback, and studies of student outcomes. Our commitment is not simply to create materials that reflect reading research, but to continually examine how effectively those materials help educators translate evidence into stronger instruction and improved opportunities for students.

Tumbleweed was founded by literacy experts around a simple belief: every student deserves a path toward becoming a confident, capable reader. Tumbleweed Reading Expeditions exists to make that path possible without lowering expectations, limiting access to meaningful learning, or requiring older striving readers to leave their dignity at the door.

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Where every reader finds their own path.™