

# SUPERKIDS



## How Does Superkids Teach Character Development?

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THE SUPERKIDS READING PROGRAM

The Superkids Reading Program uses gentle life lessons to teach strong character development. Every component acknowledges and celebrates the fact that students are learning not only reading skills but life skills as well. Content encourages students to be strong, smart, happy, healthy, independent, cooperative, and responsible.

### Good Friends: The Superkids Characters

The Superkids characters are the heart of the program at all levels. Through songs and stories imbued with humor and honesty, students make friends with the Superkids. They identify with them and care about them. The Superkids match the students in age and development from kindergarten through second grade. The characters' abilities and challenges develop in sync with the students' abilities and challenges. Their stories, inspired by real children in real classrooms, mirror what's happening in the students' own lives so children are open to

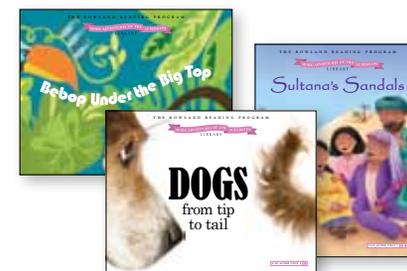


learning life lessons from the Superkids. The characters model appropriate behavior and provide points of conversation that the teacher can use to spark discussion about how we treat one another, behave, contribute, and act as good citizens of our classrooms and our communities.

### Lasting Lessons Are Explicitly Taught

Lasting Lessons in the Teacher's Guides suggest questions, activities, and conversation starters that tie to the stories and elicit reflective answers from the students, helping them to relate the lessons the Superkids learn to their own lives.

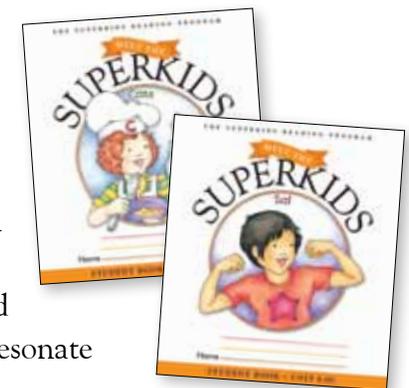
Comprehension questions ask the students to do more than recall story details. Students are asked to think critically, to



evaluate the Superkids' actions, to suggest alternative actions, and to connect and reflect on their own experiences. Students are asked, "Have you had a similar experience? What

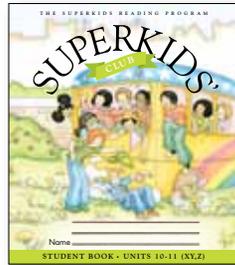
did you do? What do you wish you had done?" This explicit teaching of life lessons sets the Superkids apart from other reading programs.

In *Meet the Superkids*, taught during the first semester of kindergarten, the Superkids characters are introduced one by one, each with his or her own unique interest, such as cooking, art, the outdoors, sports, and imaginary play. These interests resonate

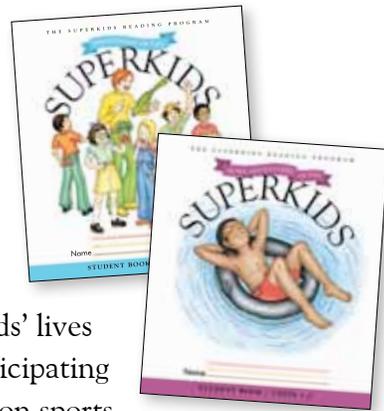


with the students because these are interests they share. Therefore, from the start, the materials support being who you are as an individual as well as respecting others and their uniqueness. The diversity of the Superkids' interests model being physically energetic, curious, and engaged.

In the second semester of kindergarten, the Superkids band together and form a club. Stories at this level model positive and healthy interactions with friends. The Superkids make decisions about how to organize the club and plan fun things to do together. They learn to work together to solve problems and resolve disagreements as they create adventures to share. *Superkids' Club* stories show how individual talents and abilities can be put to use to benefit the group and how generosity results in more fun for all.



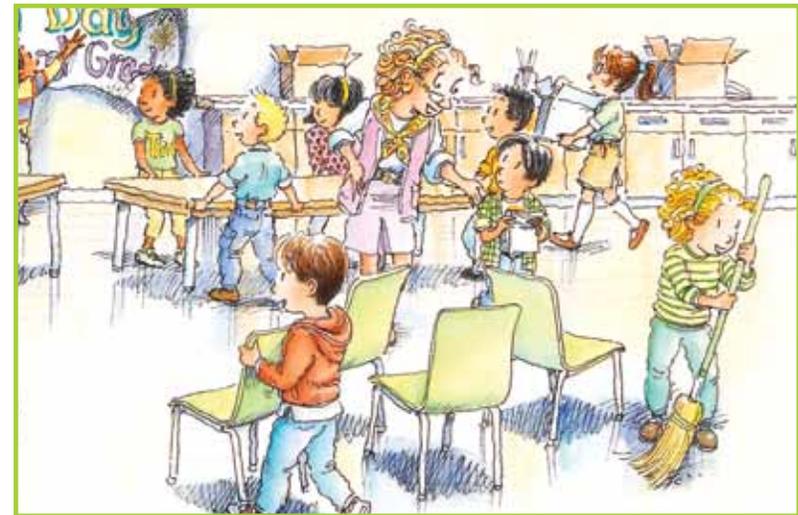
In first grade, the world of the Superkids expands, just as the world of the students has expanded. These stories and poems model healthy and positive interactions with family, neighbors, and the larger community. The Superkids' lives now include music lessons, participating in community projects, playing on sports teams, and having sleepovers. As their activities become more sophisticated, so do their interactions. In the first-grade



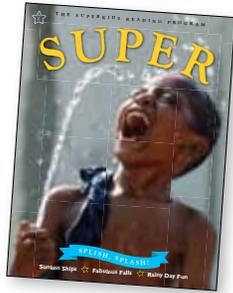
stories, the Superkids overcome disappointment, learn empathy, face danger, and take responsibility for their possessions and their actions.

In second grade, there are three main integrated reading components: the Decodable Reader, SUPER Magazine and the Book Club.

In the Decodable Readers, the Superkids are in school. Their teacher, Ms. Blossom, offers inspiration and guidance, but she expects the Superkids to be self-starters and encourages them to solve their problems themselves. Inspired by real second-grade teachers' stories about their students, the Superkids confront dilemmas about inclusion, loyalty, originality, bravery, honesty, and perseverance. They work hard, have fun, and by the end of second grade they blossom into new self-awareness and compassion for others.



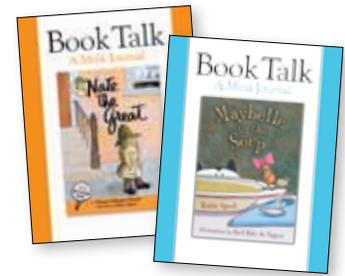
Students have the special experience of reading SUPER Magazine in second grade. Eight lively issues feature exceptional photos and nonfiction content related to science and social studies to fascinate and educate students about the world. Facts speak for themselves and lead students to be appreciative and responsible citizens of the planet, grateful for its abundance yet mindful of its fragility. Students see that the world influences them and that their behavior influences the world as well. The choices they make about how they treat one another and how they treat the environment are significant even beyond their own sphere.



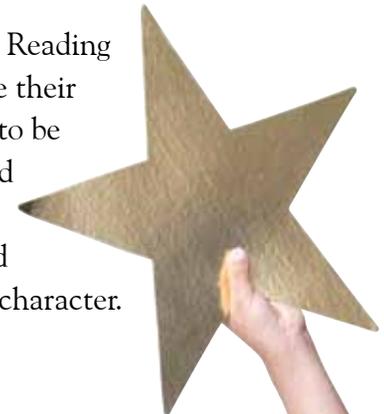
The Book Club provides beloved classics of authentic literature of many different genres—folk and fairy tales, historical fiction, realistic fiction from many different cultures—to encourage a love of reading. Stories of courage, whimsy, hope, forgiveness, and love, full of wit and wisdom, were all



recommended by second-grade teachers and school librarians who value them for their variety, insights, and literary merit. Good books let us walk in someone else's shoes for a while and show us how we are all connected. The accompanying Book Talk Journals allow students to reflect on what they've read and relate the lessons these stories teach to their own lives.



The content of the Superkids Reading Program helps children realize their promise. It prepares students to be not only confident readers and writers ready for intermediate grade work, but confident and conscientious people of good character.





To learn more about the Superkids program and results of the Foundation's extensive classroom research, please call us at **866-370-7323** or visit our website at **[www.superkidsreading.org](http://www.superkidsreading.org)**.



ROWLAND READING FOUNDATION

*Rowland Reading Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving reading instruction in the primary grades.*

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