We have listened!

The most widely used literacy assessment resource has been enhanced.

The world-class **PM Benchmark Literacy Assessment** equips teachers with accurate and robust tools to identify students’ instructional and independent reading levels using fiction and non-fiction texts. A first of its kind, the resource offers in-depth guidance and support to confidently assess literacy skills and strategies for Levels 1-30, Pre-Level 1 and Post-Level 30.

**PM Benchmark Literacy Assessment** resource responds to the changing needs of literacy instruction and assessment in Canadian classrooms. With the inclusion of Pre-Level 1 and Post-Level 30 assessments, as well as fiction and non-fiction texts across Levels 1–30, the **PM Benchmark Literacy Assessment** provides teachers with the right tools to:

- accurately identify students’ reading levels
- use evidence to inform teaching practice and lesson planning
- monitor students’ reading achievement and progress over time
- implement consistent assessment practices within and between schools
- capture data for school literacy metrics

**WHAT’S NEW?**

- **PRE-LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENT CARDS**
  Assess a student’s early literacy competencies in areas of oral literacy, phonological awareness, phonics and concepts about print.

- **NEW BOOKS AND CARDS**
  60 texts for Level 1–30 (2 texts per level) with fiction introduced from Level 1 and non-fiction introduced from Level 6.

- **POST-LEVEL 30 ASSESSMENT CARDS**
  Expose students to complex styles of writing that encourage deeper comprehension and more sophisticated text analysis and critique.

- **STUDENT RECORDS**
  A new and updated Student Record is provided for each assessment, allowing teachers to easily capture evidence of reading achievement.

- **PROCEDURES CARDS**
  Detailed instructions ensure a consistent, whole-school approach to literacy assessment.

- **TEACHER’S RESOURCE BOOK**
  Train your teachers to carry out benchmark assessments and implement strategies to extend fluent readers.

- **ONLINE RESOURCES**
  QR codes on every book and card leading to a printable student record
THE BALANCED READER

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF A BALANCED READER ARE

DECODING, FLUENCY AND PHRASING, AND COMPREHENSION

A thorough and rigorous literacy assessment gives teachers the power to make informed decisions about their students’ reading development. At the centre of the PM Benchmark Literacy Assessment is the Balanced Reader Framework, where students develop the three components needed to become effective and confident readers: decoding, fluency and phrasing, and comprehension.

The PM series enables teachers to ensure students become balanced readers by guiding them through 30 incremental levels.

WHAT MAKES THE PM LEVELLING SUCCESSFUL?

We don’t “level” texts — our PM readers are written according to our own detailed levelling criteria. The PM Guided Readers expand students’ minds, challenge their thinking and awaken their curiosity for the world around them.

PM LEVELLING CRITERIA

- Vocabulary and high-frequency words
- Word count
- Print and layout
- Punctuation
- Text type
- Sentence structure
- Print concepts
- Illustration/text match
- Recurring characters

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF A BALANCED READER ARE

- DECODING
- Fluency and phrasing
- Comprehension

DECODING
Phonological development is an important part of becoming a balanced reader. Students need to understand the sounds found in words and be able to decode texts.

FLUENCY AND PHRASING
Students need to break text into meaningful sentences and understand the conventions of text, including syntax and punctuation. Students are taught fluency and phrasing with continuous texts, punctuation and complex sentence structure.

COMPREHENSION
A balanced reader can not only read, but comprehend the text. This is determined through literal, inferential and response questioning.

Wide range of text types and genres
Police and search-and-rescue teams launch a drone

Drones

There are two texts per level for Levels 1—30. Repetitive illustration and photographic texts are introduced at Level 1. As students progress through the levels, they are exposed to more text types such as narratives, recounts, information reports, descriptions, procedures, expositions and discussions.

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The use of drones is widespread in society today and is and special events. Small drones are fitted with powerful and forecast the weather. Pictures from drones have special instruments that measure the temperature and humidity, which can help predict weather patterns. Drones can also be used to detect and prevent wildfires by monitoring areas for signs of fire. They can be invaluable in areas that are difficult to access by other means.

These drones can fly long distances and stay in the air a small aircraft. The smallest drones have a flight range of areas to locate victims. When the injured people are found, information quickly back to search-and-rescue teams on the ground. In many instances, the person is located promptly and the search-and-rescue teams can be on site quickly, saving valuable time and resources.

Other drones have fixed wings like an aeroplane. They need to be constantly moving through the air to prevent them from losing altitude. These drones are often used for aerial photography, mapping areas, and surveying the environment. They can also be used for communication and data transmission in remote locations.

Police also use drones to help supervise large public events. Huge crowds of people gather at concerts and sporting grounds. To keep these events safe and secure, drones are used to monitor the crowd, ensuring that everyone is moving safely and that there are no unexpected difficulties. Drones can also be used to detect and prevent illegal activity, such as drug trafficking, by monitoring areas of interest.

Drones are becoming increasingly popular in law enforcement because they offer a number of advantages. They can quickly and efficiently gather data, providing officers with real-time information that can be used to make informed decisions. Drones can also be used to monitor areas that are difficult to access by other means, such as forests, mountains, and remote locations.

The use of drones in law enforcement is still relatively new and is likely to continue to evolve in the future. As technology improves, we can expect to see drones being used in a wider range of applications, providing a valuable tool for ensuring public safety and security.
The Pre-Level 1 assessments allow teachers to assess a student’s literacy competencies in the areas of oral literacy, phonological awareness, phonics and concepts about print.

The Pre-Level 1 assessments consist of two cards and a four-page Student Record covering six assessment tasks designed for students working towards Level 1. The Pre-Level 1 assessment covers oral literacy, phonological awareness, phonics and concepts about print.

ORAL LITERACY

Research indicates that oral literacy is the foundation for the development of literacy skills.

Oral literacy strongly influences phonological and phonemic awareness.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Phonological awareness is the ability of a student to hear and say parts of words, exhibit an awareness of syllables and phonemes within words, and hear multiple phonemes within words.

PHONICS

Phonics requires students to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds the letters represent.

CONCEPTS ABOUT PRINT

Students need an inherent understanding of how print works. This is widely recognised as a precursor of learning to read.

WHAT’S NEW?

POST-LEVEL 30

All Post-Level 30 texts have been carefully curated for confident, independent readers. They provide opportunities for students to engage with authentic texts, such as extracts from popular works of literature or extracts from scientific journals.

The suite of six Post-Level 30 texts are designed to expose students to complex writing styles with higher-order sentence structures and concepts. The text types included are narrative, narrative (historical fiction), information report, exposition and discussion.

Three of the six Post-Level 30 texts.

Patchwork Predator – information report from New Scientist.

Over Sea, Under Stone – narrative excerpt from The Dark is Rising series by Susan Cooper.

Say ‘No’ to Plastic Straws – exposition text.