



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

A Child Becomes a Reader



License:

A Child Becomes a Reader by Bonnie B. Armbruster, Fran Lehr, and Jean Osborn is licensed under Copyright

Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

Bonnie B. Armbruster, Fran Lehr, and Jean Osborn

Reviewed by:

David Stronck

Institution:

California State University, East Bay

Title/Position:

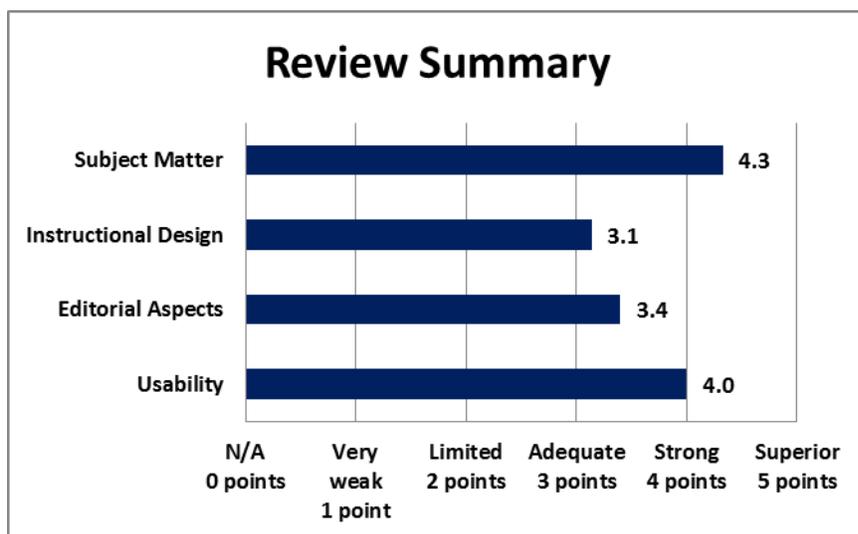
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

August 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [EDUC 200](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?						X
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?					X	
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X

Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?						X
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)			X			

Total Points: 26 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- This "textbook" is designed to serve as a book for parents. It could be used as a textbook in a course for parents. It can be used as a helpful textbook to assist candidates in a teaching credential program to learn about reading and helping parents of children in kindergarten through grade 3.
- The subject matter is an analysis of how to assist children at home to learn how to read.
- The book also describes what teachers should be doing in each grade to teach reading.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)		X				
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?			X			
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?						X
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)	X					
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 22 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- This "textbook" is designed as a manual to help parents and lacks many features of a textbook.
- The "learning outcomes" of children at the end of each grade is helpful. The book does not provide learning outcomes for the parents or other adults who may be using the book.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)					X	
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	X					

Total Points: 17 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- This book for parents can be used as a textbook. However, it does not include multimedia elements. The style is to deliver key information in a brief and direct way. Professional teachers may want to use this book as a reference and as a helpful aid to give to parents.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?					X	

Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X	
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X	
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X	
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?						X	

Total Points: 20 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- When the readers are parents, they can easily find the section of the book that is relevant to the grade level of their children. Yes, they can easily navigate within the book and find important information, ranging from what their child should be able to do, to what their teacher will be doing in the classroom. If the book is used as textbook, the students can easily find key information of interest.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?					X	

Total Points: 8 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- This excellent short book provides a summary of current research on reading.
- It provides helpful lists of what the child should be able to do and what the teacher should be doing.
- The design is focused on guiding parents to assist in the teaching of reading. Parents who use this book will be better prepared to help their children and much better prepared to discuss issues of reading with their children's teachers.
- The book contains clear definitions and examples.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- This "textbook" is "for parents." It can be used as a textbook, but probably will best be used as a supplemental textbook to assist future teachers in meeting the needs of parents of their students. Teachers will enjoy the summaries of what children should be able to do, and what teachers should be doing.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)
(Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



This [review](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).