

Read This First

The *Teacher's Manual* for the Reading Program was written in 1985 to serve as a guide for teachers participating in the Center's ten-year study of the effectiveness of its Program.

The *Manual* was housed in a three-ring binder for two reasons. First, it made it easier to leave the *Manual* open to a specific page or section while a teacher was reviewing a particular set of instructions. Second, the *Manual* was printed double-spaced to leave room for teachers to write comments for themselves or suggestions for eventual sharing with the Center on ways to improve the *Manual*. The *Manual's* double-spacing turned it into a 450 page volume. The three-ring binder made a book that size more easily readable.

When the Center's study was completed, and the Center discovered that no publishers were willing to make its Program available, for reasons described in *The Curriculum Book – Ending Illiteracy in America*, the Center converted its entire Program, including the *Manual*, into free download from its website. The downloadable *Manual* was the same one used by the 2,048 teachers who participated in the Center's study.

The pending publication of *The Curriculum Book* prompted the Center to update the Program's *Teacher's Manual*. The 1985 version looked as ancient as it was. The text of the original *Manual* remains unchanged. The updating involved changing double-spacing to single-spacing, thereby reducing the *Manual's* size by 130 pages, and converting black-and-white illustrations to color.

As another update, the 2,048 kits used in the study included a three-foot-by-two-foot Components Chart for posting on a wall. The Chart showed all the Reading Program's kit components and how they connected with one another. When the Program was made downloadable, the Components Chart shifted from being a wall poster to becoming the source for the downloading all the kit's components. Now, at any point in the 1985 *Manual* where any component is mentioned, the reader can click on that component's link on the Components Chart download page to view that component in its entirety.

The *Manual's* references to the cassette tapes that accompanied *Dekodiphukan* and the Sound Review Flipbooks are still in the *Manual*. Although the cassette tapes are no longer available, the Components Chart contains links to their downloadable MP3 audio tracks.

The 1985 *Manual* also makes no reference to the fact that the sound-pictures that are the foundation of the Program's unmatched success in

teaching all children to read and to write are now available as a font for use on both Mac and PC computers. There is also no reference to the fact that the Program is now also available as 14 iPad apps, free with no ads of any kind included. Information on both the font and the apps can be found by clicking on the *Dekodiphukan* book cover on the Home page of the Center's website.

As a final note, the Center began its ten-year study of the Reading Program's effectiveness in the 1984-1985 school year. In the Summer of 1986, after the first 500 kits had already been placed in classrooms all across the country, Bob Baratta-Lorton gave a Reading Program presentation to a group of Center math workshop instructors, all of whom were also classroom teachers. The presentation was video taped and a VHS video cassette of Bob's presentation was then included with the next 1,548 kits that were to be included in the ten year study.

There was no reference to the video in the 1985 Teacher's Manual because it had already been published. However, in this updated version, a link to the video presentation is included.