

# Learning<sup>®</sup>



Teachers' Evaluation Comments  
19th Annual  
Teachers' Choice<sup>SM</sup> Award 2013

**Learning® Magazine**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Teachers' Choice<sup>SM</sup> Award for the Classroom 2013**

Below you will find the comments for your product. As you read the comments, please note that this is the literal text from the evaluation forms. We have not differentiated comments between the teachers on each team. Although we encourage teachers to provide comments, it is not a requirement. Therefore, you may notice if you had multiple entries, the responses may be more or less in depth depending on the team of teachers. We do not use comments in the scoring process. They are provided as insight into the panel's thoughts on your product.

We hope you find the responses helpful and continue to participate in the Teachers' Choice Awards in the future. Applications will be available in January 2013 for the 20th Annual Teachers' Choice Awards program.

<b>Product</b> <b>3328</b> <b>See-N-Read MemoryMark Series Reading Intervention Tools</b> <b>Company</b> <b>See-N-Read Reading Tools</b>
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**What aspects of this product did you like the most?**

The aspect of this product I liked the best is the see thru material around the line that is being read. It was very helpful for those students who don't want to track while reading, this product had them tracking without realizing that they were actually tracking!

I like the fact that it isolates words for struggling readers.

I liked the cut out window and the grey matte finish for the surrounding text.

I liked the fact that it was easy to use. It was practical and many students could use it at the same time.

I liked that it was a good tool for struggling readers that they could easy use by themselves.

I liked that it was easy to use with any student that needed it.

**How would this product need to improve?**

Something that can be done to improve this product is to have it come in different colors. I have had students who use different color overlays to help them read, so making this in colors would be helpful to some students. It did not happen to me, but I can imagine a student sticking their hand through the opening and tearing the plastic, so a larger or reinforced piece on the top would be beneficial.

I would really like if the slat had some type of colored acetate to help highlight the words.

I do not have any suggestions at this time.

Maybe it could come in different sizes to accommodate the different font sizes. Maybe different colors.

I don't really have any suggestions.

I think it is fine as it is.

**How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?**

I had my reluctant readers use this product, they thought it was cool and were eager to read. It became obvious who found it easier to read using the product because those students would ask for it while doing other reading activities. I had them available during my guided reading groups so students could pick them up and use them when needed. This product could also be used as a reading intervention.

I used this product with a few of my struggling readers to help them not feel so overwhelmed with long reading passages. By the time they got to the end they were quite surprised.

I used it with students who have a difficult time tracking and staying focused when reading a text or chapter book.

I allowed students who would normally skip lines use it and then compare it to when they didn't use it.

I used this with a student that I tutor in reading afterschool.  
I used it with a couple of my low readers during our reading time.

### **How will you and / or your students react to this product?**

My students really liked using the See-N-Read. Some students read more because they got to use it. Most of the students who used it thought it was easy and fun to use. It became obvious who found it easier to read while using it because they asked to use it often.

The students that used this product really liked it. They liked the fact that they could just concentrate on a few words rather than the whole passage.

They liked it because it was something new. I have used similar items with them in the past. It was easy to implement and easy for the students to manipulate in any type of text.

They liked it because it helped them keep track of where they were reading. They felt it was easier to read with and they did not have to spend as much energy on where they were on the page.

He was able to focus a little better on what he was reading.

They liked being able to keep on track with the rest of the class.

### **If funds were available, would you recommend this product to a teacher at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.**

If I had a teacher who had younger students that were just learning to read I would recommend a class set. For the upper level teacher I would recommend that they have a few in the classroom for those students who are struggling to read. It is definitely a helpful tool but for very specific students.

I would recommend this product to other teachers at any grade level to use with struggling readers. The only suggestion I would use would be to add the colored acetate.

Yes. It is a great tracking tool for reluctant readers. I also like the durability. Students can take it with them from class to class and use it in any setting without drawing attention to themselves. This is very important for reluctant readers.

I would recommend this product because it is something that is quick easy and can be immediately put into place with little training and effort.

Yes. I think this could be a good purchase, especially for a teacher that has struggling readers.

Maybe. I think this is a very specialized product that could probably help out a reading specialist better than a regular classroom teacher. It was evident when a student was using this tool in the classroom, which was embarrassing for one of my struggling readers. But in a group where everyone is using it or in a one-on-one situation it's a nice tool to have.

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<b>Product</b> <b>3329</b> <b>See-N-Spell Spelling and Vocabulary Quick Reference Guide</b> <b>Company</b> <b>See-N-Read Reading Tools</b>
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**What aspects of this product did you like the most?**

The book is organized well and easy to use. I like that parts of speech are defined in easy terms with examples. I also found the Commonly Misspelled Words Section very helpful. The Notes sections throughout would be very useful during instruction time to add curriculum related information.

I really liked how easy the product was to use. My students found what they were looking for in a matter of seconds.

I love that this is an extremely easy to use product. I also enjoy how the book is separated into noun, pronoun, article, conjunction, verb, etc. This can be very helpful to students since it reinforces what they have been learning.

I like the commonly misspelled word section and there is space for students to write their special interest words.

I like how most of the words chosen truly are the words that students get confused with spelling. I like how there is space at the bottom of each page for students to add their own words that they struggle with. One of the things I like as a middle school language arts teacher is that the words on each page are broken down by parts of speech, and the homophones for each letter are at the bottom of the page with definitions.

One aspect of this product that I absolutely love is that on the pages for letters of the alphabet that have different sounds, the student is referred to the other pages. For example, the "C" page says "also see 'k', 'q', or 's'". This is a wonderful feature for students who are VERY unsure of the initial letter of the word they're trying to spell. I also like that each letter is summed with key words (grouped by part of speech) on one easy to read page.

**How would this product need to improve?**

I think the book should be published as a reproducible product.

The font could be a little larger. I few of my students noted that they wished the 'words were bigger'.

The ways I think the product could improve would be to include more words and to separate the verbs, nouns, etc. by color. I just think it would help make the resource more kid friendly. Maybe also if it could be made a little bit smaller to fit inside their writing folders.

I have seen products similar to this before, and, while it worked well, it didn't really have anything unique about it. Maybe there could be a section on strategies for spelling unknown words.

I would like to see this guide have holes in the side near the binding so that students could use them as an easy reference to keep in their binders. That way, it would be even easier to stay organized and it would be simple to find. Other than that, I like everything else about it.

This product could be improved with the addition of more difficult words. I try to have my 6th graders expand their vocabularies, and they would benefit from a resource like this that included some more challenging words, or words that are covered in middle school curricula (analyze, summarize, onomatopoeia, etc.).

## **How did you make use of the product, or integrate it into your lesson plans?**

I used the book to supplement our spelling unit. I shared some of the information with my students. I pointed out some of the features and explained how it could be beneficial in language arts.

Most of my students reached for this resource at least once when doing written work.

I allowed my students to use it when working on editing and revising their work. They found it easy to use and helpful.

I allowed students to use this as a reference during our writing lessons. They were able to look up words that pertained to their assignments.

I had students make use of this product when working on end-of-year posters and essays. Students were able to use it quickly, efficiently, and quietly without disturbing others.

I used this book as a classroom reference. After doing a book talk, I allowed students to refer to it as necessary while they were working on writing projects. I found students turning to it while they were revising and editing their work to ensure they'd spelled words correctly.

## **How will you and / or your students react to this product?**

Some of my students would probably use it on a regular basis. I would encourage my students to refer to it, especially during seatwork/independent working time.

I loved it and my students said it was much easier to use than a dictionary. I liked that it was quicker for them to use versus a dictionary.

Both my students and I found this resource to be easy to use and helpful. Some of my students asked if we could get a class set to use since they found it less intimidating than a dictionary.

They seemed to like using it. It was a good tool for them to quickly look something up.

At first, the students thought it was babyish, but as they were forced to use it they commented on how easy it was to use.

They also appreciated not having to flip through all the pages of the dictionary in order to find the spelling of a word. When I first received this product, I felt relief because this is a product that all students should have, whether they are an ESL student, a student receiving special education services, or an honors student. I knew it would cut down on the number of questions I am asked on a daily basis!

I reacted with excitement to this product. I was looking forward to having a quick spelling reference in my classroom. I was surprised to see several students who struggle with spelling readily refer to this book while they were working on their projects. At one point, there were several students gathered around the book, anxious to look up their words.

## **If funds were available, would you recommend this product to a teacher at the appropriate grade / age level? Please explain why or why not.**

I would definitely recommend See-n-Spell for students. It's a very useful reference guide.

I think this is a great resource. It saves the students time they could be spending on the project, not looking up words.

Yes, I would recommend this product. It was less intimidating for my fifth graders and it was easy for them to use. It isn't large and bulky so it still can fit into their desks, but it would be nice if it were a bit smaller to fit inside their writing folders instead.

It would depend on the teacher's needs. I think it's a good reference that is easy to use if a teacher weren't already using something similar. I have seen products like this before and I didn't see anything outstanding that would make me recommend this over another similar product. It is a nice resource to have in the classroom.

I would definitely recommend this to other teachers. I would especially recommend this product to teachers who serve students in a smaller class setting with students who struggle with any aspect of writing composition. This seems to be an easy guide for students who struggle with the English language to have them "help themselves" instead of always having to ask a friend or the teacher. Ultimately, I would like to have one for each student in my class! It is a great product overall.

I would readily recommend this book to teachers of grades 4-6. For grade levels higher than 6th, I think the words included in the book are a bit basic. Teachers of special education and ESOL in grades 7 and higher might also find this book useful.