Read 180 is a reading program for students reading below grade level.

There are several components of the program including:

- Software to build skills and provide practice in essential areas such as comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, spelling, and writing.
- R-books which are consumable workbooks for the students to work on in large and small groups. These r-books reinforce and complement the skills learned in the software.
- Audiobooks to allow students to read along with the help of a narrator and a reading coach.
- Paperback books to allow students to select books to read independently. Students have access to appropriate level, high-interest books.

To begin the program, students are given a test to determine their lexile or reading level. This lexile helps me place the students in the program, match them to independent reading materials, and track their growth. The lexiles separate the students into 4 groups: below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. It is our goal to have all students in either the proficient or advanced groups.

The program is designed to work in 90 minute time blocks, but we have tweaked it to fit our 74 minute schedule. In each time block, the students work together in a whole-group setting, using the r-books. Then the group splits into 3 sections: 1 section receiving small group instruction that builds on whole-group learning. Another section goes to work on the computers; and the 3rd group reads independently. Then the group meets together again as a whole to wrap up the day's learning.

The program is meant to be used on a year-long basis, but I worked with a group of 9th graders for 2 trimesters. The students in this group ranged from below basic to proficient in September. By March, all but 2 were in the proficient or advanced level. All but 2 students had increased their lexiles to the 9th grade level, and 1 of those students has a language barrier.

Overall, the Read 180 program is helping to get our students who are reading below grade level up to where they should be.