

SUNDANCE/NEWBRIDGE
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUNDANCE EXPANDS POPULAR READING
POWERWORKS™ TO GRADE 3**

Northborough, MA, August 18, 2005 -- Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing, a leading publisher of instructional materials for the PreK–12 marketplace and a unit of Hights Cross Communications, Inc., has announced that its Sundance imprint's *Reading PowerWorks™* – a highly successful content-area supplemental reading program -- has been expanded from grades 1-2 to now include grade 3.

“What started as a balanced literacy program for grades 1–2 has quickly found a need in the third grade classroom,” said Sundance/Newbridge President and CEO, Bob Laronga. “Primary grade teachers like the program’s ready-to-teach, four-step format, so grade 3 was a natural progression. *Reading PowerWorks™* is a unique, balanced approach to literacy and content that encourages young students to learn at their own pace and reading level. It’s the perfect complement to the first, second, and third grade curriculum.”

Developed around national and state standards, *Reading PowerWorks™* helps students read in the content areas of science, social studies, and math and is designed to support the development of the five key pillars of reading -- phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.

Each *Reading PowerWorks™* PowerPack theme unit features a Read-Aloud trade book, a nonfiction Big Book for Shared Reading, a student book version (six-pack) of the Big Book for rereading activities, and three PowerPairs (nonfiction and fiction readers) for Differentiated Instruction. Each PowerPack also includes three audiocassettes (one for each PowerPair), a Thematic Trade Book Library (six nonfiction/fiction books), and a PowerSkills component that helps on-level and struggling students reinforce content vocabulary, develop comprehension, build fluency, and become independent readers.

At present, there are 30 *Reading PowerWorks™* PowerPack Theme Units -- 11 Science, 11 Social Studies, and eight Math. The initial grade 3 PowerPacks focus on Science and Social Studies themes and address key state and national standards in these content areas.

For more information about *Reading PowerWorks*[™] and balanced literacy, please call 800-343-8204, or visit Sundance Publishing online at www.sundancepub.com. Editors: For digital cover art, please contact mstugrin@earthlink.net.

About Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing: Sundance Publishing is a leading publisher of PreK–8 reading instructional materials and books for below-level readers in middle and high school. It also publishes and distributes K–12 paperbacks, literature-based media, and teacher resources. Newbridge Educational Publishing is one of the nation's leading publishers of supplemental materials for teachers of PreK–5+. Newbridge creates photo big books across the curriculum and is a leader in nonfiction guided reading in the content areas of social studies, science, and math.

About Hights Cross Communications: Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing (Iowa City, IA), Options Publishing (Merrimack, NH), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information, visit www.hightscross.com.