



**CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY**

Name(s) Stephanie M. Paulus	Project Number S0318
Project Title I Can Read: Is There Really a Difference Between the Reading Levels of Second and Third Grade Students?	
<p style="text-align: center;">Abstract</p> <p>Objectives/Goals The objective is to determine if there is a difference between the reading level of second graders and third graders as determined by the Oral Diagnostic Reading Tests from the Phonetic Reading Chain by Ruth Worden Frank.</p> <p>Methods/Materials Nineteen second graders and eleven third graders were given four tests, two oral and two written to determine if there is a difference in their basic reading skills. Test #1 is pairs of short vowels that the teacher sounds out and the students respond to as "same" or "different" on their paper. Test #2 was the letters of the alphabet in random order read by the teacher; each student wrote down the letter they heard. Test #3 is also letters of the alphabet in random order, but the students read them aloud. The last test, Test #4, is administered in the same way as the third, but with a list of sight words instead of letters of the alphabet. The tests are graded and analyzed using the chi-squared statistical analysis.</p> <p>Results Results show that there were only slight differences in the scores- and reading level as determined by the tests used-. This was confirmed by the chi-squared statistical analysis.</p> <p>Conclusions/Discussion There is no difference between the reading level of second graders and third graders when determined by the Phonetic Reading Chain Tests by Ruth Worden Frank. The data was confirmed by a chi-squared statistical analysis. Further experimentation should be performed to determine how much progress is made from start to finish of elementary school by testing the same group of students every year.</p>	
Summary Statement The project seeks to determine if there is a significant difference statistically between the reading level of second graders and the reading level of third graders.	
Help Received Richard Bartel perfected the methods used; elementary teachers allowed time for testing students; elementary students graciously allowed themselves to be tested; dad taught me the chi-squared statistical analysis; mom helped with the backboard; Ruth Worden Frank wrote the tests used for the Phonetic	