Gradual Release Model

Part #1: Introduction

Each lesson begins with a brief explanation of the focus standard(s) and how students will use it. Example text, pictures, or graphic organizers support the instruction to help students better understand the skills.
Gradual Release Model

Part #2: Focused Instruction

Teachers can lead the whole class or small groups in collaborative work. Students read a story, poem, play, or nonfiction piece and work through a series of guiding Think About It questions to help them organize their thoughts and build comprehension strategies.
Gradual Release Model

Part #2: Focused Instruction

As the lesson progresses, students apply their close reading skills by completing A Closer Look activity. Shaded boxes with hints and reminders are also provided for extra support. Focused Instruction concludes with a Discuss It question to reinforce the skill through speaking and listening activities. Students are asked to analyze part of a text to answer a question, and then discuss their answer with their peers.
Part #3: Guided Practice

It's time to apply the strategies learned in part #2. In the Guided Practice section, students can work collaboratively to answer multiple-choice and short-answer questions. They will also see hints and reminders, and A Closer Look activities.
Gradual Release Model

Part #4: Independent Practice

Students are ready to answer questions on their own without any help or hints. They will encounter a variety of item types, including those on Common Core assessments:

- one- and two-part multiple choice
- short response
- extended response or essay