In many schools, Basal readers are a heavily relied upon instruction tool. Basal reading programs are leveled readers that contain preorganized, scripted lessons for teachers to present to their students. Opinions about Basal reading programs are mixed. Some argue that the programs are beneficial, while others say a whole-language approach is preferable. Both sides cite research to support their position. While some might argue against these classic reading instruction tools, there are an array of benefits in the use of Basal readers that should be considered.

**Phonetic Study**
The Basal approach uses a phonetic system of reading instruction. In this system, students are taught to sound out words using knowledge of common letter sounds. Studies, including an National Research Panel examination of the topic, have indicated that phonetic instruction is effective because it equips early language learners with the tools they need to continue to develop their vocabulary independently by sounding out words and deducing meaning.

**Standardization**
In an era of high-stakes testing, an ever-increasing emphasis is being placed on meeting the academic bar. Basal readers offer teachers a standardized curriculum that is organized with the goal of meeting the bar in mind. Through the use of Basal readers, instruction can be easily standardized, ensuring that students in a Philadelphia suburb receive the same education as children in inner-city Los Angeles. This standardization takes the onus off teachers and allows them to simply facilitate education and respond to student concerns instead of inventing new lessons and instructional programs.

**Less Planning Time**
Basal reading programs come with ready-made materials in the form of workbooks and reproducibles. Teachers can use this material to cut down on their planning time. The less time a teacher spends planning the lessons, the more time she has to deal with students in a one-on-one setting and identify and address student concerns.

**Research Based**
The instructional techniques used in Basal readers were based on the results of educational research. These techniques have been proven effective numerous times and are not merely an experimental attempt at educating students. By using research-based approaches with proven effectiveness, students can be taught more quickly because less time is expended trying out new techniques and determining their effectiveness through the process of trial and error.

Read more: Benefits of Basal Reading Programs | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/list_6046518_benefits-basal-reading-programs.html#ixzz1lhtaLcV5