

COMMENTS
Category 1

CCSS English Language Arts (ELA) and Literacy - Grades K-5/6

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Title: *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys*

Submission Code: #100

General Comments

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) exemplar texts (54) are embedded in curriculum.
- K-1 vocabulary focuses primarily on high-frequency words/sight words.
- Intermediate vocabulary instruction features vocabulary in context cards using Isabel Beck's steps (define, think, talk); student vocabulary readers each week present vocabulary through informational text.
- Visuals are exclusively photographs.
- Foundational skills are explicitly taught daily in K-3 and present in 4-6.
- Grammar, phonics, writing/vocabulary include interactive whiteboard technology.
- Comprehension mini-lessons visual strategies are included in student text.
- Balance of text approximately 50-50 throughout grade levels (appropriately balanced).
- Each lesson often pairs a literary and an informational selection.
- High-quality, authentic literature and informational texts.
- Opportunities to analyze the text and refer back are embedded in student texts, followed by mini-lessons teaching how to do this (called "Dig Deeper").
- Teacher's Edition includes guidance for first read (reading for comprehension) and second read (analyze text).
- Opportunities for text-based writing appear in "Your Turn".

- Fluency addressed daily.
- Progression of learning for writing 3 weeks/3 pieces then 2 week project; those 5 weeks of lessons are all on one specific mode.
- Response to Intervention (RTI) kit as part of ancillary materials.
- Many opportunities for differentiated instruction.
- Grammar resources are house in student book.
- Many features (e.g. rubrics, intervention plans) included in teacher's edition at point of use.
- All components available online and for parents, teachers and students.
- Materials available in print, online and tablet format.
- MySmart online interactive writing feature makes feedback from teacher and/or peers available.
- Emphasis on multiple choice; no evidence of constructed response.
- Performance tasks appear to be technology dependent.
- Assessment App available for purchase for Smarter - Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) practice.
- Assessments can all be given online and can be scored by computer.
- Online video clips available.

Publisher: Benchmark Education

Title: *Benchmark Literacy*

Submission Code: #101

General Comments

- This program uses the workshop model for both reading and writing instruction. It is a true integration of reading and writing. Units are organized by comprehension strategy rather than theme-based.
- Provides an extensive library of leveled texts.
- Fluency piece is developed through readers' theater at all levels. Scripts have lexiled parts to allow all readers to engage in text at their level.
- K-6 approach to foundational skills is organized with clear academic progression building from year to year.
- Balance of fiction/non-fiction text is 50/50 with whole group instruction; leveled texts add more non-fiction.
- Writing addresses all three modes in every unit. Mentor texts are included right in teachers guide to focus on writers' craft and support instruction.
- Vocabulary instruction teaches strategies to build vocabulary. Does not appear to specifically routinely address Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary in each lesson.
- Provides opportunities for flexibility in instruction and timing.
- Whole group instruction introduces a comprehension strategy followed by small group instruction on the same strategy.
- Core program includes all leveled libraries, word study box, writers workshop, posters, texts for close reading and online components.
- Teachers have access to all assessments K-6. Comprehension assessments are grade level specific.

Publisher: McGraw Hill Education

Title: *Reading Wonders. Grade K-6*

Submission Code: #102

General Comments

- Objectives are in “Sight the Standards” listed on each page.
- Multiple opportunities for students to collaborate and talk with each other about readings.
- Literature Anthology is separate from Reading/Writing Workshop text
- Possibility of going all digital.
- Addresses all CCS standards across all grade levels.
- Each grade level starts with Start Smart, weeks establishing routines and norms throughout program.
- Anchor texts are often exemplars from Appendix A.
- Each selection and leveled reader is annotated with information about the qualitative and quantitative task demands.
- Each week provides integration of research and inquiry accompanied by rubrics.
- Paired selections allow students to read and build knowledge.
- Consistent balance of text throughout each component of the program.
- Close reading with specific purpose includes mini lessons.
- Guided practice of close reading through writing through sources.
- Response to reading requires citing evidence from text.

- Program addresses all tiers of vocabulary with an emphasis on tier 2 & 3 using established routines based on the research of Isabel Beck.
- Provides scaffolding to foster independence.

- Broad range of writing: daily writing with 6 Traits +1 (process writing, genre writing, analytical writing, response to texts).
- Provides online writing and collaboration opportunities for students
- WonderWorks is an intervention program.
- Flexible assessment using online tools (customizable by teachers).
- Rubrics for all modes and task types (also customizable).

Publisher: Pearson Scott Foresman

Title: *Reading Street*

Submission Code: #103

General Comments

- Thoroughly addresses all grade-level Common Core State Standards (CCSS) ELA and Literacy Standards.
- Every selection includes multiple measures of, text complexity measures quantitative, qualitative, and reader and task.
- Teachers who are already familiar with this program will notice it retains the original high quality text with significant enhancements to reflect the common core with additional selections and teacher tools.
- Reading Street Sleuth provides short, dense, complex text promoting rich and rigorous evidence based discussions.
- Addresses all three tiers of vocabulary through four categories.
- Balance of texts represents increasing amount of nonfiction text as grade levels progress.
- Front of student text includes graphic novel style skills and strategies handbook. Upper grades include a vocabulary handbook at back of student text.
- Vocabulary lists provided in English and Spanish for grades 3 and up.
- Provides all students with multiple opportunities to engage with high level text with scaffolding through teaching plans. (Same text, three teaching plans)
- All materials available in digital form.
- Integrates appropriate supports and extensions for differentiated learning.
- Provides scaffolding throughout that enables every student opportunity to access the core materials and progress to working independently and proficiently through the gradual release of responsibility model.
- Teacher editions have been slimmed down by placing teaching routines in separate books.

- Includes an established set of teaching routines for all components.
- Entire program available online.
- Every student has online access through a student account and parent portal linked to the teacher account.
- Assessments provide SBAC style practice.
- New assessment pieces clearly match currently released SBAC item types.
- Two sample texts are presented with a variety of assessment types including multiple choice, constructed response, and extended response. Requires students to refer back to text.
- Rubrics aligned to CCSS and customized to different types of tasks.

Publisher: Cengage Learning Inc.

Title: *National Geographic Reach*

Submission Code: #106

General Comments

- High quality texts are included in small group leveled library classroom set.
- K-2 grades contain more fiction than non-fiction. Heavier non-fiction at the upper grades.
- In upper grades, National Geographic Explorer magazines provide opportunities for differentiated instruction with two copies of each text at different lexile levels.
- Flexible lesson planner tool to use for adjusting to different length reading blocks.
- Components may be adapted for high- and low-tech classrooms.
- Technology and media through online component enhances learning opportunities.
- No performance tasks embedded within unit assessments. Assessments heavy on multiple choice.
- Purchase of the program includes full access to myconnect .com website.