



# K-12 ELA/Literacy

## Adoption Guide

*For additional information (e.g. pricing, copyright, ISBN) and Idaho completed evaluations, please contact the curricular materials coordinator.*

Materials in this guide are contracted from November 2018-December 31, 2024

This guide includes handwriting materials.

### GRADES K-6

#### Achieve3000

##### Smarty Ants

- **Kindergarten- Component**
  - Strengths: As a component program for foundational skills, Smarty Ants meets the requirements. Smarty Ants offers a strong, differentiated learning program that targets all student needs. The light-weight reporting options provide teachers with valuable data and recommendations to supplement their instruction.
  - Weaknesses: Lack of detailed scope and sequence. Lack of standards alignment to lessons.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: As a component program for foundational skills, Smarty Ants meets the requirements. Smarty Ants offers a strong, differentiated learning program that targets all student needs. The light-weight reporting options provide teachers with valuable data and recommendations to supplement their instruction.
  - Weaknesses: Lack of detailed scope and sequence. Lack of standards alignment to lessons.

##### KidBizPro

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Based the Nonfiction, it meets highly. Engaging content/easy to follow directions. The target skills are listed with lessons. The multi-5 step

approach clearly helps with reading online, assessments, and practice for ISATs. Lots of Close reading involved. The skill to build from grade to grade is not built in due to the type of content being presented. KidBizPro doesn't meet the criteria for a comprehensive program, however, it would meet for a Component only program for 2nd grade.

- Weaknesses: KidBizPro doesn't meet the criteria for a comprehensive program because it doesn't meet the specific Idaho foundational skills or build as Units from year to year. However, it would meet for a Component only program for 2nd grade as it provides a variety of texts cross curricular with regular, repeated practice for reading and writing.
- Other: Because basic foundational skills are still necessary for 2nd grade, KidBizPro would be a valuable component for reading/writing practice.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Lexile Levels assessed and used. Opportunities for students to type a written response using text evidence. Cross curricular information used to enrich understanding of the world around us.
  - Weaknesses: Vocabulary is not assessed adequately. Only one word of 6 are assessed in each lesson. Students are able to bypass the short answer response for the lessons. In some cases students could use basic prior knowledge to answer questions without reading the text. ONLY nonfiction is used in this program which does not meet Idaho Core standards.
  - Other: This program would be a good fit as a component program to support a Science or Social Studies curriculum as it does not address all of the ELA components necessary. Does not meet criteria for Idaho Content Standards for ELA.

## Amplify Education

### Core Knowledge Language Arts 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

- **Kindergarten- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The read-alouds used give students examples of how to interact with and use text that increases in complexity within and across grade levels. CKLA offers rich vocabulary lessons that help students increase their academic vocabulary. CKLA meets the needs of students of all ability levels through remediation and extension activities in each domain of study. Students are given multiple opportunities to make connections to real-life situations and make inferences. Materials are available in print and online.

- Weaknesses: There is a 60/40 balance between literary and informational text at the Kindergarten level.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: CKLA provides explicit and systematic instruction of foundational skills with opportunities for immediate application to connected texts. Student readers are 100% decodable and provide multiple supports. Students are required to provide text-evidence for responses. Student knowledge and vocabulary skills are developed through content-rich read-aloud texts. Read-alouds include high-interest, above grade level selections. Writing is incorporated throughout the curriculum. CKLA incorporates many types of assessments throughout curriculum to monitor student progress and inform instruction.
  - Weaknesses: Only one nonfiction text is included in decodable readers, and there is no differentiation for students reading at diverse levels (no leveled readers). There is a need for additional text-dependent, higher level questions, and guidance on specific discussion techniques. Although "Pause Points" include ideas to challenge high-level students, there are few embedded within individual lessons.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The rigor is built-in as well as remediation. Topics are rich and engaging.
  - Weaknesses: If you are in need of more than core skill readers, teachers would need to either supplement additional reading books, or have access to a library with additional readers on these topics.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Materials that support teachers to plan and present differentiating instructions. Materials that support the varying needs of all students. Lesson segments also include frequent Support suggestions for providing additional support for the lesson content. Research projects strengthen understanding of knowledge and vocabulary.
  - Weaknesses: Fundamentally there are no weaknesses.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Text progressively increases in quantitative complexity as the year progresses. Anchor texts are of a publishable quality containing useful information, rich vocabulary and questions which invite multiple reads. CKLA units provide frequent opportunities for evidence-based discussions, requiring students to refer to the anchor text discussion and writing assignments. In accordance with the Idaho Content Standards Amplify has included poetry,

drama, short story, characters from mythology, myth, literature from other cultures, and informational text. Assessments include checks for understanding, end of unit assessment, mid unit assessment, and beginning, mid-year and end of year assessments which measure reading comprehension, reading fluency, grammar and mechanics, and writing proficiency.

- Weaknesses: Instructors may need to simplify lessons and or shorten discussions to fit into time and pacing indicated. Majority of Anchor text are above grade level, additional grade level text may be needed for beginning of year.
- Other: Curriculum includes a CKLA Cursive Activity book for third and fourth grade as well as fourteen cursive lessons at the beginning of Unit one teacher's guide. Materials also includes a companion writing program called Writing Studio.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: Text complexity and range of genre. Enrichment activities. The use and teaching of morphology is extensive. Rich domain specific vocabulary. Writing is daily/weekly throughout unit.
  - Weaknesses: Academic vocabulary is missing. Supports for ELL or struggling readers is not given. Take home assignments for ELL or struggling readers are impossible, and fluency is monitored at the beginning of year and at the end of each unit, and otherwise done so at home. Writing is not a culminating effort.

## Cengage

### Panorama: Science

- **Kindergarten- Component**
  - Strengths: The Panorama material is highly engaging for students with accompanying texts that are of high interest. It successfully integrates reading skills and strategies within a science platform. The material is easily differentiated for students of all abilities and English Language learners. There is a large focus on speaking and listening skills throughout each lesson.
  - Weaknesses: Research is not a defined term within this grade level of Panorama. The culminating projects do not support independent research.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Panorama is a highly flexible program with components available in both print and online. Students engage with high-quality science based content while simultaneously increasing reading comprehension and vocabulary.

- Weaknesses: Panorama focuses on rich, high-quality content, however there no foundational reading skills addressed. Additionally, grammar and language use and academic vocabulary acquisition are limited.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Weaknesses: Necessary online program is available with a 6 year license.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths:
    - Variety of text types/genres, levels, complexities
    - Rich, interesting, science-based content
    - Evidence-based discussion and writing was integrated into 100% of the text passages
    - Students are required to align their writing to the sources in three different activities per week
    - Anchor texts follow a focused line of scientific inquiry each week
    - Both informational and literary texts are included.
    - Additional videos are available online for making a science connection.
    - 85 fluency passages available online, with audio available
    - Text-dependent questions
    - Vocabulary instruction, discussion, and practice
    - Percentage of opinion writing aligned to ICS
    - Opportunities to write
    - Program can be completed in one school year. Pacing calendars provided.
    - Text-evidence short writing assignments
    - Integrated vocabulary (academic and targeted)
    - At least one culminating task per unit
    - Questions and tasks support students' ability to complete culminating tasks
    - Opportunities for short writing activities utilizing text-evidence
  - Weaknesses:
    - Does not increase in text complexity; complexity is random throughout the program.
    - Disproportionate content (70% informational vs 30% literary)
    - The mix of texts is 70% informational and 30% literary (ICS states 50/50)
    - Suggestions are not made for integrating other volumes of reading.
    - Additional readings / supplementary texts are not provided and/or suggested.

- Additional ways teachers could track student reading in light weight ways that ensure students are actually engaging in reading independently are not provided.
    - Did not include all genres required by the ICS
    - Percentages of expository and narrative writing not aligned to ICS
    - No explicit writing instruction
    - Grammar and conventions -- no explicit instruction in the program
    - This program does NOT address grade-level standards for foundational skills by providing instruction and diagnostic support in phonics or word recognition through a research-based and transparent progression to develop proficient readers.
    - This program contains fluency passages online and fluency assessments with a tracking chart. However, the passages are not identified progressively throughout the teacher's manual, fluency strategies are not explicitly taught, and fluency passages are not Lexiled
    - Interventions for struggling learners, ELLs, and advanced learners (lessons/materials) not incorporated/provided
    - Assessments in comprehension, writing, and fundamentals
    - Research process not explicitly taught; lack of full research projects
    - Lacking explicit vocabulary instruction and practice
  - Other: Due to not meeting Non-Negotiable 3, as well as its lack of foundational instruction and lack of explicit writing instruction, this program cannot be recommended as a comprehensive or basic program. The reviewers do, however, recommend the program as a component for the purpose of high quality text and evidence-based discussion / response writing.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
    - Strengths: The curriculum offers a variety of genres including Expository, Drama, Realistic Fiction, Poetry, and Folk Tale text. Tasks, assignments and questions are text dependent, requiring students to produce evidence, closely evaluate text, or make connections from the text to other extensions or activities. Cengage provides a sequence of texts that build knowledge and vocabulary in Science, fulfilling Idaho Content Standards for Life, Earth, and Physical science. Text and resources available on line and in print making curriculum more accessible to students and schools.
    - Weaknesses: The curriculum provides for in class tracking of student reading but does not provide for tracking independent student reading outside of classroom. Curriculum needs to increase phonemic instruction, decoding, word recognition, syntax and explicit grammar instruction. Current assessment measure student

grasp on academic vocabulary, a more thorough formal assessment of gained knowledge and student achievement is needed.

- Other: Cengage submitted Panorama as a comprehensive curriculum, however according to the review team's findings the curriculum did not meet the requirements on AC 2 and AC 4 disqualifying Panorama as a comprehensive curriculum. Review team found it difficult to locate resources and navigate the on-line website. In teacher's guide page 10 did not print so the skills and strategies mini lesson 10 is missing.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: Cengage Panorama curriculum is well organized and scaffolds student comprehension and collaboration well throughout the units and lessons. Students have many opportunities to write during the lessons. The Idaho content standards are well addressed in reading, speaking, and listening. The context and academic vocabulary are discussed throughout.
  - Weaknesses: The Panorama curriculum does not have explicit fluency and grammar lessons. There are no writing lessons so students will struggle to write the types of writing that they have not been explicitly taught. Students below and above level are not adequately serviced with the differentiation options available.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: The Student Workbook offers continuous writing, analyzing, and close reading skills practice. This is the best form of evidence for measuring student progress. The program offers a variety of texts and genres. The program provides a unique global connection through the lens of science.
  - Weaknesses: Formal/Summative assessments (multiple choice vocabulary and reading fluency) do not provide ample evidence of student progress and understanding because it does not utilize any higher order thinking skills, rather it relies on memorization and process of elimination. This program lacks ample opportunity to build and support the extensive amount of vocabulary. It lacks explicit language (grammar and convention) instruction. It lacks explicit essay writing instruction. There is not enough support or differentiation amongst EL learners, struggling learners, and advanced learners. The pacing guides are too vague.
  - Other: This program would work best in a self-contained elementary 6th grade class, to supplement an ELA curriculum and strengthen an ELA and science connection.

## Reach for Reading

- **Kindergarten- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Reach for Reading offers a comprehensive program that includes instruction and activities in foundational skills, reading and response, vocabulary and grammar. It provides rich, high-quality, high-interest grade books, big books, and leveled readers (94) that are varied in genres. It offers ample, valuable assessments to track student progress in the skills being taught and metacognition. It also includes text based writing activities throughout the units. Additionally, it provides extra instruction in Phonics Foundations for English Learners and below level learners.
- Weaknesses: Lessons and activities include some differentiated opportunities for above level students; however, they are not significantly differentiated (same activities are listed for below and intermediate levels) for advanced students (T98-99).

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: There is integration of science and social studies. If you used this program you probably wouldn't need anything additional to meet science and social studies standards. The program does not feel overwhelming. You could easily teach the whole program and not have to pick and choose what was most important. The information in the student anthology was applicable, taught systematically and seemed placed with a purpose. The daily grammar was amazing! The grammar was so explicitly taught. It taught the rules and the whole week was focused on a specific topic, but daily it changed slightly. The phonics. It was also very explicit and systematic.
- Weaknesses: Does not include the word research in student anthology or teacher manuals. Some of the sidebar differentiating ideas are weak, especially for the above level learners.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: The program provides all necessary tools for teaching on level and remediating students. The online support is extremely high. You have access to the entire National Geographic Library and beautiful visuals are provided.
- Weaknesses: Above level could be stronger.
- Other: The Teachers Edition needs to be tabbed - it is too thick to find materials, even though it is all there.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: There is a good balance of content rich, complex nonfictions and literary texts. Students participate in Reading/Writing/Listening and Speaking from a variety of text across the curriculum. Student collaborate in a variety of



ways and for many reasons. Student conduct research and writing project weekly.

- Weaknesses: Without professional development or guidance, the teacher's manual can be hard to follow. Although students are using sources to find their answers, students are not always asked to cite their text evidence in their answers. The listed instructional times were not specific to the lessons and were just listed as the same amount of time each week. Writing projects may take longer than 5 days with 20+ students.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Strong program that adapts to all levels with clear instruction. The curriculum is easy to follow and use. There is a wide range of genres found throughout the anthology and level readers. The text range with the moderate qualitative rating. Anchor texts are worthy of multiple reads with "Before You Move On" questions that help focus the reading. Students have the opportunity to be exposed to science related topics. The table of contents list the Lexile levels for all anchor texts and small group readers. Supplemental materials allow students to explore other view points and encourages self-exploration. Under the small group reading tab, multiple ways are given to allow for independent reading and monitoring student understanding of those texts. Best Practices routines for vocabulary into six steps, extended into whole group, small group, partner, and individual activities to help learn academic and key vocabulary. Every set of new vocabulary have three parts to helps students build vocabulary background: Academic Talk, Key Words, and Talk Together. Academic talk is included in the best practices routines. Within the best practices, making connections to text addressed. Before each anchor text, there are multiple connections for learning academic and key vocabulary. This vocabulary is also bolded throughout the anchor text for easy reference and referral. Each week has a writing project, covering Narrative-30%, Expository- 45%, Opinion-25%. Each week within each unit has a writing project/research project that is worked on throughout the week. The Assessment Book, each unit is broken down by week covering reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing/revising/editing. A vocabulary test that covers the vocabulary that is addressed within the unit. A writing, revising, and editing test covering word usage, syntax, grammar, and punctuation. The Student Profile (at the end of the unit assessment) is a way to see the breakdown of student's scores over the comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, grammar, spelling, and writing skills covered in the unit. There is a Unit Self-Assessment that students can fill out on their own addressing the skills

learned in the unit, for a self-check. After assessments are completed, reteach resources and routines are available if needed.

- Weaknesses: For the fourth week, the unit assessment in reading comprehension with multiple passages to read and address questions. A fifth week is required in each unit to complete the culminating activity. The time frames laid out by the program are not realistic to the current classroom schedules.
- Other: Look through all the "extras" available for purchase, whether they are all needed or not to be a complete program for this grade level, is to be determined.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Strengths for Reach for Reading 5th grade includes assessment options, science and social studies integration, and thematic connections to the big question. Leveled reading materials are provided. Assessment and reteaching is included at the end of each week in order to continually assess student needs. The National Geographic Explorer Magazines are high interest, visually appealing, and provide shorter selections for close reading.
  - Weaknesses: In the Reach for Reading 5th grade program, teachers may not be able to finish whole group and small group instruction daily (depending on the amount of time in your ELA block).
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Reach for Reading is a program that has aligned itself with the ICS. The reading and writing assignments found in this program are rigorous, focused on the standards and engaging. The tasks are age-appropriate and the supplemental reading materials coordinate seamlessly with the anchor texts. The differentiated lessons are color coordinated within the units and are very easy to find, use, and understand.
  - Weaknesses: The balance between the three types of writing was heavy on the explanatory side and lacked in frequency in argumentative and narrative writing. Also, the syntax was lacking in complexity when dealing with the vocabulary words and practice.

## Empowering Writers

### Editing, Revising & More

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Enhances an established English Language Arts program.

## Expository & Opinion

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: The skills build upon each other in a logical way throughout the year. Students are able to complete a finished product in each genre of writing by the end of the year. Sample discussions guide the teacher in how to conduct a discussion in writing with the students.
  - Weaknesses: Conventions are only briefly mentioned and there is not any explicit instruction in that area. The Scope and Sequence and Year At A Glance are great in the Expository & Opinion Writing but they are missing in the Narrative Writing.
- **Grade 3- Component**
  - Strengths: EW teaches students the organization and process of writing with appropriate supports. EW teaches students how the structure of a text relates to the process of writing.
  - EW does not provide supports for ELL or those working below/above the grade level.
  - Other: EW is a component writing program. Therefore not all criteria were evaluated. Criteria were only included if pertained to the EW curriculum.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Enhances an established English Language Arts program.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Students will learn and practice writing skills in each lesson. All three required writing types are addressed to meet Idaho content standards. Section 4 on research provides great support for students to transition from narrative to expository texts. The writing prompts in Section 6 are beneficial for students to practice all writing types.
  - Weaknesses: The organization is not user friendly for teaching the Idaho content standards. The Idaho content standards address writing based on writing type. The EW curriculum is not specified by writing type and isn't logically sequenced. There are no rubrics for students and teachers to assess student learning and success.

## The Hub: Narrative Writing

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

## Getting Ready to Write Guide

- **Kindergarten- Component**

- Strengths: Empowering Writers is a writing curriculum where every lesson is a writing lesson in some format and discussion is an integral part of the lessons. Opportunities are provided to enrich and expand student understanding of writing through discussions and supplemental texts. Empowering Writers incorporates speaking, listening, and collaborative activities for students in every writing lesson.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Empowering Writers aligns all materials to texts through writing opportunities where students need to use text evidence, inferences and experiences to write. Reading, Writing, and Art Connections for First Grade provide an enhanced rich experiences for students to expand writing opportunities. Empowering Writers is a writing curriculum where every lesson is a writing lesson in some format and discussion is an integral part of the lessons. Opportunities are provided to enrich and expand student understanding of writing through discussions and supplemental texts. Empowering Writers incorporates speaking, listening, and collaborative activities for students in every writing lesson. A year-at-a-glance provides an overview of the writing skills throughout the year. The curriculum can be completed within a regular school year to maximize student learning.
- Weaknesses: Empowering Writers does not provide explicit instruction of grammar and conventions as they are applied in increasingly sophisticated context. Materials do not include understanding of preceding grade skills. Empowering Writers does not provide evidence of support for ELL students or student reading, writing, speaking or listening below grade level.

## Great Minds

### Wit & Wisdom

- **Kindergarten- Component**

- Strengths: Wit & Wisdom provides engaging opportunities for students to build content-rich discussions and understanding. It scaffolds students to meet higher order thinking processes. It has rich read aloud texts that are used over an extended period of time to allow for close reading and deep thinking.
- Weaknesses: Time for each lesson is 90 minutes which does not include any foundational reading skills. This will be difficult for kindergarten classrooms on a

half-day schedule. Further, schools on a four day schedule will get most of the curriculum in the school year but will not be able to schedule pause points as suggested. Also, this curriculum is above the average kindergartner's developmental level.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Wit & Wisdom provides opportunities for rich and rigorous evidence-based discussions and writings about texts. Each Module has lessons that include small-group & whole-group discussion, Socratic Seminars facilitate more discussion. Major Assessments use discussion to build up to writing about text. Curriculum adequately uses text dependent questions, tasks, and assignments. Lessons require students to use the text for various questioning and reading strategies. Major Assessments focus on writing about the stories read. 100 % of Wit & Wisdom's Major Assessments use writing to support analyses, claims and clear information about texts. Major Assessments require students to speak and write to answer a Focusing Question Task, Socratic Seminars require students to participate in discussions to support the End of Module Task. All discussion and writing activities are centered around text that students have read and studied in the modules. Each Wit & Wisdom lesson has a focusing question, content framing question, and craft question to prepare for the daily lesson. This is asking the students to sequence the events or make predictions prior to reading. Academic language is a focus of Wit & Wisdom. Questioning and vocabulary tasks are part of the lessons. Focusing, Framing and Craft questions are at the beginning of each lesson and are referenced throughout. Vocabulary Deep Dive can be found in the modules to focus on vocabulary terms. Wit & Wisdom lessons provide many opportunities for students to participate in speaking and listening lessons. Socratic Seminars are in each module for a student-directed opportunity. Regular Think-Pair-Share Activities, Peer Review and editing. Wit & Wisdom materials include grammar and conventions in their Deep Dive.
- Weaknesses: Unable to determine if reading anchor texts are rich and above current reading abilities because they were not provided to evaluate. Using Appendix A: Text Complexity a description of the texts are given, but some of the Lexile ratings seem to be incorrect with The Lexile Framework for Reading measures. It is very difficult to determine whether the anchor texts are worthy of students' time and attention. Unable to determine if read aloud texts are rich and above current reading abilities because they were not provided to evaluate. Using Appendix A: Text Complexity a description of the text are given. Some texts are listed as informational, otherwise it is difficult to determine the stories are informational or literature. It seems as though most texts are literary, only

about 25% informational. Wit & Wisdom does provide many shared, short, and focused research projects. Wit & Wisdom averages 43% of the lessons in overall build academic vocabulary. Writing opportunities seem to be limited to sentence stems and assessments where students are asked to write answering a focusing question. Authentic independent writing opportunities are not evident in the daily lessons until the end of the module. There should be more opportunities for students to write on a topic in its entirety prior to the culminating EOM. Explicit instruction seems to be lacking as the grammar and conventions lessons are sporadic and lacking sequence without increasing to sophisticated contexts.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths:

- Variety of levels of text complexity
- Texts build on theme of each of the modules
- Discussion and Gathering text evidence independently and with peers
- Scaffolding to use evidence to complete end-of-module tasks
- Systematic knowledge building through reading, speaking, and listening
- Program allows students to regularly practice reading, group reading, and evidence collection, and module tasks.

- Weaknesses:

- Texts are aligned from simpler in the first module, to the highest level in the second, and a variety of levels in the 3rd and 4th.
- Vocabulary instruction is limited
- Foundational skills needed for this grade level are missing

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths:

- Evidence-Based Discussion and Writing
- Builds Knowledge with Texts, Vocabulary, and Tasks
- Access to the Standards for All Students
- Questions, Tasks, and Assignments
- Foundational skills of fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension

- Weaknesses:

- Quality and Range of Texts (not provided for review; unable to be evaluated)
- Foundational skills of phonemic awareness and comprehension
- Remediation and extension lessons/materials

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths:

- Their use of authentic literature.

- The instructional design encouraged deeper thinking because of the use of questioning.
    - The writing tasks were frequent, varied, and developed towards culminating tasks.
  - Weaknesses:
    - Lack of foundational phonics and word recognition skills
    - Limited support for struggling and ELL learners
    - A district would need a supplemental intervention program.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Great Minds is strong in leading students through speaking and listening activities to deepen their understanding. There is a strong vocabulary component built into the curriculum. The questioning techniques used are effective for the teacher to administer formative assessments throughout the lesson.
  - Weaknesses: Great Minds curriculum does not scaffold writing to the end of module summative assessment. The anchor texts were not provided for the reviewers to determine the text complexity and appropriateness of the texts for 5th graders.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: It includes both literary work and informational text as well as visual arts. It integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar and three-tiered vocabulary. It is structured with instructional routines incorporating explicit writing, text-based vocabulary and formative assessments. There are tips included to support learners.
  - Weaknesses: The tips to support learners do not address all learners in depth or breadth. The scope of the curriculum will be challenging to complete in a year, especially with the required daily homework and the 90-minute blocks.

## Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt

### Journeys

- **Kindergarten- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Scaffolding and support for E.L.L and struggling readers.
  - Weaknesses: Language could be more aligned with receptive language skills.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Frequent and repeated exposure and application using all the texts in this collection will give students many opportunities to build and interact with the building of vocabulary throughout the school year.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Format and Aesthetics: Teacher Editions are easy to use, easy to follow, bright, and engaging (“Our Focus Wall” at the beginning of each week is a great summary for teachers to visualize the week’s entire lesson). Clear instructions make the TE user-friendly, and annotations within the lessons provide Common Core objectives, as well as reference to the index at the back each TE for further routines instructions. Also includes extra Lessons on Routines, such as media literacy and research skills, in the “Resources” section at the back of each TE.
  - Weaknesses: Formative assessments of anchor texts are not truly provided in the lesson plans. Rather, teacher is provided with examples of intervention if a child has not mastered the targeted skill.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: This program has multiple texts, resources and supports for teachers and students. The students have a lot of opportunities for interactions with various types of texts. It also includes strong foundational skill instruction. It is a well-rounded program.
  - Weaknesses: A weakness in this program is the extension activities. The activities don't provide enough challenge for the high level students. They don't provide higher level thinking tasks. Another weakness is the amount of time that it takes to accomplish all of the program in one year.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: Journeys uses Lexile as evidence for quantitative measure for text complexity. A rating scale of low, moderate, and complex is used to determine qualitative measurement. This includes the levels of meaning or purpose, structure, language, conventionality, clarity, and knowledge demands. Journeys provides an anchor text and a paired text for each lesson section and exhibits exceptional craft and useful information. Both literary and informational texts are present across the reading units. Journeys teaches students the craft of writing and students are reminded to use grammar and conventions in their writing tasks. They are provided with daily/weekly writing instruction to develop a purpose, organize writing, use evidence, or summarize. Speaking and listening is emphasized and supported throughout the units. Journeys ends each unit with a performance task that asks students to write knowledgeably. This often includes two texts from the unit and how they relate. ELL students and struggling/advanced student support is provided for vocabulary and comprehension.



- Weaknesses: Journeys does not support students performing or creating a culminating task focused on the central idea(s) of the text or demonstrate their knowledge of a topic. A lack of writing to textual evidence and claim support is not apparent within the weekly lessons. Grammar support and instruction does not meet the rigor and practice required for student success.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Anchor texts have a range of complexity that gradually increases throughout the year. The Anchor Texts, supporting reads and Leveled Readers give a range of genres and Literacy and Informational texts. There are activities built into every lesson that require students to go back into their reading in order to complete them. There are multiple ancillary materials to support every level of learner.
  - Weaknesses: New Teacher Professional Development is absolutely necessary in order for this program to be used effectively. Vocabulary CODE for domain specific words is not used correctly and/or regularly. Research Projects are only found in one place. Annotation is not taught correctly. Timing/pacing is very vague. This makes planning very hard.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: Anchor texts have a range of complexity that gradually increases throughout the year. The Anchor Texts, supporting reads and Leveled Readers give a range of genres and Literacy and Informational texts. There are activities built into every lesson that require students to go back into their reading in order to complete them. There are multiple ancillary materials to support every level of learner.
  - Weaknesses: New Teacher Professional Development is absolutely necessary in order for this program to be used effectively. Vocabulary CODE for domain specific words is not used correctly and/or regularly. Research Projects are only found in one place. Annotation is not taught correctly. Timing/pacing is very vague. This makes planning very hard.

### **Read 180 Stage A**

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Intervention**
  - Strengths: Read 180 Stage A is a well-written intervention program for English Language Arts which meets most of Idaho's ELA Standards for 4th grade students and impressively addresses and integrates the four Idaho ELA/Literacy Key Shifts.
  - Weaknesses: The scope of the grammar and phonics strains is weak. The grammar objectives are basic for 2nd grade interventions. The phonics objectives

are also basic, but for 1st grade with the exception of the ou and ow spellings which are often introduced in intervention programs at grade 2.

#### **System 44 Next Generation Upper Elementary**

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Intervention**

- Strengths: The diagnostic and curriculum delivery of basic foundational skills through the online component.
- Weaknesses: The CD for the decodables do not match the current technology available in classrooms. Streaming might be a practical solution.

#### **iRead**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Intervention**

- Strengths: iRead Books! provides a variety of formative, diagnostic, and progress-monitored assessments that the teacher or program can administer at key points. The program is adaptive and can move students through topics at a pace based on their needs and performance. iRead's Professional Guide also details how the program promotes language acquisition for any level of English language learner. The program offers scaffolded support by way of routines, resources, lessons and interactive activities.
- Weaknesses: Teacher needs to be part of the guidance to ensure quality work and discussion takes place. Weakness: iRead assessments only assess print concepts, phonological awareness, fluency, spelling and sight words. There are no assessments for writing or running records. Weakness: While iReads software provides on level lessons and practice, it puts the responsibility for the teacher to be knowledgeable of small group or individualize instruction. Instruction cards provide practice of foundational skills and comprehension with writing, however a teacher needs to have full knowledge of scope and sequence and the standards to adjust or structure learning within the structured time for ELA. Guidance is needed for all groups or students to ensure quality engagement.
- Other: iRead and iRead Books! is an intervention program. Weaknesses in cumulative writing or tracking comprehension does not affect the quality for building foundational skill in phonics and reading.

## **IXL Learning**

#### **IXL English Language Arts**

- **Kindergarten- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Great opportunities for 2nd graders to read a variety of passages and answer comprehension questions. This does ask students to draw on textual

evidence. The categories "reading comprehension strategies" and "independent reading comprehension" offer informational and literary passages with comprehension questions specific to the story. They compare and contrast, determine story plot, topic and purpose. Students have the ability to advance to higher grade level tasks and content within the IXL program. These advancement opportunities provide extensions, but do not include writing, speaking and listening activities for above grade level students. Students have the ability to advance to higher grade level tasks and content within the IXL program. These advancement opportunities provide extensions, but do not include writing, speaking and listening activities for above grade level students. There is a possibility 2nd grade students have an infinite amount of texts/passages they could read in the text types and genres. 2nd grade IXL Learning provides reading passages/text, however it is difficult to know what text type and genre they are as students work through the web-based program. IXL Learning provides many opportunities for students to work with academic language and vocabulary throughout its tasks/activities. Grammar and conventions are covered for grades K-2 with opportunities for application. IXL Learning provides excellent opportunities for 2nd grade students to work through text-dependent questions for comprehension. If students answer incorrectly, immediate feedback is given to students to provide guidance. IXL Learning has many lessons/tasks on grammar and conventions for Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Although it is difficult to determine if the skills can be applied through increasingly sophisticated context and out of context. Students have the ability to advance to higher grade level tasks and content within the IXL program. These advancement opportunities provide extensions, but do not include writing, speaking and listening activities for above grade level students.

- Weaknesses: XL Learning does not have anchor texts for read aloud texts that are rich and above students current reading abilities for Kindergarten or 1st Grade. For 2nd Grade students, IXL has a category called "independent reading comprehension," where students will read an informational or literary passage and answer questions about the reading. There is no quantitative measure listed for the reading passages, so it is hard to know if they are appropriate for the grade level. Does not provide these students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous, rich academic language. IXL Learning is a web-based program that does not have publishable texts. Kindergarten and First grade do not have reading passages that are informational or literary. 2nd grade has an "independent reading comprehension" category that has subcategories "read and understand informational passages" and "analyze stories." Within these categories students

can read the informational or literary passages and answer comprehension questions. The stories seem to be worthy of careful reading, but it is hard to know how many stories are available in each category to determine the percentage of informational or literary text. Student paced curriculum means there are not opportunities for rich and rigorous evidence-based discussions or opportunities to write about texts. There is no opportunity to provide textual evidence through inferences or going beyond the text to make connections. IXL is a web-based program that students work through independently. Therefore not lending itself to the possibility of frequent evidence-based discussions as students will be on many varied tasks at any given time. There is no opportunity to write about information gathered from texts, to defend claims, and support analyses. Writing/typing is not required for any tasks within IXL. Materials do not provide a sequence or series of texts/passages. Instructions are not clear for instructors, or even provided. There are not opportunities for students to choose their own texts/passages to read within the program. IXL does not provide a sequence or series of texts/passages that build knowledge and vocabulary systematically through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There is no speaking and listening due to the nature of a computer-based program. There is not a teacher's manual for IXL Learning to provide instruction and clear design for instructors. IXL can be done in & out of class, but seems more individual intervention than whole class. IXL Learning does not provide a scope and sequence or pacing guide to determine if the program can be completed within a regular school year. There is no evidence of support for ELL students or students who read, write, speak, or listen below grade level. Teacher support outside of the program is needed to supplement students who have not mastered foundational skills and need extended practice. IXL Learning uses a web-based program to determine where students are succeeding or not, therefore it does not provide resources or suggestions for adapting instruction for teachers to guide students. Pacing is dependent on the student and not given, there is not a way to change the instructional delivery for students with alternative needs. Students are able to progress on once they have completed tasks, but there is not culminating assessments to give after a sequence of events. IXL Learning does not provide formative or interim assessments for students. Writing proficiency is unmeasurable, as students are not tasked with writing/typing narrative, informative, or opinion tasks. Students can be "happy clickers" and progress within the program, not providing them with a gradual release of supporting scaffolds.

- Other: IXL would be a great intervention program for students to work through as long as they have teacher support and prior knowledge before progressing through the program.
- **3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grades- Component**
  - Strengths: This program is use as a supplemental program to sharpen ELA skills. IXL covers most of Idaho ELA Content Standards with multiple, adaptive questions and passages. This program tailors impeccably well to individual students through constant adaptations and scaffolding.
  - Weaknesses: There is no opportunity for students to work on their own writing skills or collaboration time for students to work together to build literacy skills. This program lacks in student interaction with one another. It also lacks the practice of grammar and foundational skills through writing, the application process, being taught.
  - Other: IXL ELA meets the Non-Negotiable and Alignment Criteria but does not meet all the key shifts. Students are missing participating in writing/speaking with text evidence and the collaborating effectively.

## Learning A-Z

### Raz Plus

- **Kindergarten- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: The strengths of this program are the vast number of resources available to teachers which can be easily accessed through various filtering options and the ability to assess student knowledge through various assessments focused on different skill areas. The amount of information this program provides is amazing and the instructional uses as listed are numerous.
  - Weaknesses: The lack of a fixed scope and sequence of skills is one of the only areas of weakness in this program.
  - Other: This program would be a solid intervention, summer school, project based learning, tutoring, or learning center resource option. Each and every time the reviewer worked or explored this program, even more resources were discovered.
- **3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grades- Component**
  - Strengths: Raz-Plus is a digital reading program that offers 29 levels of complexity which gives all students access to text. All books can be read to students or can be printed out in hard-copy format to be used in small-group environments. With access to all levels of text, teachers have the ability to individualize instruction and/or adapt to individual student needs.

The writers of the program have added what they call "Project-Based Learning Packs" as a component. For grades 3-5 there are a total of 15 projects students can embark upon. Raz-Plus correlates with many of the major core programs and has given suggestions of materials to use as a supplement to the core instruction. Students have as much access to the program as they need.

- Weaknesses: Raz-Plus is an all-digital program. There is not a lot of explicit teaching of writing, vocabulary and phonics skills. The website is cumbersome to navigate and therefore could be a deterrent for some users. The program does not offer lessons or correlations on the types of writing students in grades 3-5 need to encounter (narrative, opinion, informational).

## McGraw-Hill School Education

### Reading Wonders

- **Kindergarten- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Wonders is a comprehensive program that meets the learning needs of a wide range of student abilities. The program follows a research based scope and sequence that meets the Standards. The program also allows for differentiation based on teacher monitoring and frequent assessments and tasks. Wonders gives students multiple opportunities in each unit to analyze text and answer questions using text based evidence.
- Weaknesses: Qualitative measures used by Wonders was not apparent in the sampling. It is not apparent if the students are held accountable for acquiring vocabulary as they read as opposed to words they are taught directly. Many of the Wonders resources are found online, which could potentially pose a problem if technology is not available.
- Other: For classes that meet every other day, all day, there is a great deal of material to cover. How can this be done effectively without leaving out any of the content?

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Wonders instructional program is organized for easy teacher implementation and provides numerous resources to assure instructors that they are meeting standards at all levels for all students. The print and online materials provide more than enough resources, explanation of materials and support for instructors.
- Weaknesses: A fast pace is required to complete all components each week.
- Other: Recommended that all components be purchased for effective implementation.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Wonders instructional program is organized for easy teacher implementation and provides numerous resources to assure instructors that they are meeting standards at all levels for all students. The print and on-line materials provide more than enough resources, explanation of materials and support for instructors.
  - Weaknesses: A fast pace is required to complete all components each week.
  - Other: Recommended that all components be purchased for effective implementation.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Anchor texts are high quality. The texts are visually engaging. The Teachers Edition is thorough. The vocabulary section is well done. Students are asked to engage with multiple texts and taught how to cite evidence from sources. Areas of ELA are fully integrated. ELL scaffolding. Leveled readers that connect to the weeks focus.
  - Weaknesses: Without comprehensive training, this program will be difficult to teach to its fullest potential. There are either too many activities for a week, or the publishers are unaware of the capabilities of average third graders. Training will have to include what options must be done, and which options are not needed to complete the standards. Wonders is a direct instruction program, not a lot of student directed learning. The lowest leveled reader is at a beginning 3rd grade Lexile level. The above grade level reader is end of third grade or beginning fourth grade.
  - Other: In addition to the student textbooks and teacher editions, the workbooks, vocabulary cards, and assessment manuals are really important. Training will need to be extensive and ongoing to support teachers in teaching this program. This program lends itself to teacher directed learning as opposed to student led. The student decisions come into play with writing topic choice and culminating projects.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Overall, this program is very strong in its presentation and delivery of literacy instruction. All aspects of literacy are present. There is strong vocabulary and comprehension development. Many opportunities are presented throughout each day/week for students to discuss and write about their reading. Students are encouraged and taught how to research and use some technical writing skills. Wonders provides ample opportunity for teachers to assess their students and differentiate instruction as necessary.

- Weaknesses: Some weak spots in the program were a lack of shorter, more frequent formative assessments. Also noted, a lot of resources are readily available on-line, but hard copies were not provided.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: A variety of pacing options are available in the teacher’s edition and on line to meet grade level standards. Each lesson contains whole and small group lessons for ELL, approaching, on-level and beyond level readers.
  - Weaknesses: Lack of shorter, more frequent formative assessments. Also, a lot of the materials need to be accessed on-line versus having a hard copy of those "extras."
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: HIGH-QUALITY TEXT-Each week the students will produce a project related to the Essential Question. Students will focus on working in teams, gathering information from multiple print and digital resources, and developing a research plan. EVIDENCE-BASED DISCUSSION AND WRITING- students read and reread each week for close reading of text, they take notes and cite evidence to support their ideas and opinions and write short analytical responses. Students work through the various stages of the writing process, allowing them time to continue revising their writing and conferencing with peers and teacher. BUILDING KNOWLEDGE- Weekly concept and Essential Questions, collaborative conversations, Practice and apply (close reading, writing to sources, grammar, spelling, and phonics). There is a guide throughout the teachers’ manual for different leveled learners which assist the teacher in knowing what to do next if a child is struggling or succeeding with a particular concept. It helps the teacher reteach the concept or advance the concept.
  - Weaknesses: HIGH-QUALITY TEXT- Does not provide much time for student selected reading materials and student selected writing topics. Reading and writing activities are assigned by the teacher. Giving students less choice leads to decreased motivation to learn and decreased engagement in the lessons and activities. Formative and interim assessments-The materials did not provide evidence of this in the materials that was provided.
  - Other: Materials meet both Non-Negotiables and the relevant Alignment Criteria.

### Open Court

- **Kindergarten: Comprehensive**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**



- Strengths: Teacher and student materials are designed to provide support and scaffolding for all learners. First Grade Idaho Content Standards for English Language Art and Literacy are met. The assessment tools and supplemental support materials also support the learner.
- Weaknesses: Open Court Grade 1 Does not ask for direct text evidence. Text cited evidence provides a direct link for students to expand their reasoning and vocabulary. Not all comprehension questions or writing responses require text evidence. Better use of correlating writing skills or topics would enhance this publication. Vocabulary practice is presented after the reading section in the student anthology (Unit 7-12). When the vocabulary words are presented, they are in a different text, but related to the theme. There is little practice to acquire new vocabulary with understanding.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Assessment in Open Court Reading happens continuously. Whether teachers use informal assessments such as Skills Practice pages or Comprehension Rubrics, or whether they use formal assessment such as the Lesson and Unit Assessments, they will be able to monitor the progress of students in their classrooms and differentiate instruction based on the needs of their students. Because assessment is an ongoing cycle, teachers will constantly assess, diagnose, differentiate, and measure student outcomes. Vocabulary was taught well through the five step process.
  - Weaknesses: Teaching tips for ELL students and above level students are limited in their content and suggestions. There was no culminating writing activity for the theme.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The selections challenge the readers but therein enough built in scaffolding that all readers can be successful. The learners are asked to use many higher-level thinking strategies not just fill in the blank answers. The learner will use reading, writing, and speaking to cite evidence from a variety of texts across the genres. Students are ask to collaborate with peers as they build their literacy skills. Students will do a lot of inquiry as they research create and present their findings.
  - Weaknesses: Some of the story illustrations may not catch the readers' interests in the very beginning of the first unit. There is no evidence of a pacing guide or time line for each lesson and/or specific amounts of time that should be spent on each area per day. Although the writing prompts are culminating and high-interest for third graders, they did not meet the required 35% Exposition, 30% Opinion, and 35% Narrative. Some of these prompts may be blended, using 2

different types of writing. Although there are suggested supports in place to differentiate for all types of learners, Open Court Reading does not provide as many opportunities for above-level learners.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Open Court Reading offers a wide variety of reading material with the Grade 4 Lexile Level. There is a balance between fiction and non-fiction selections. Writing components are balanced with opportunities for informational, narrative and opinion writings. Open Court Reading's foundational skills for fourth grade are very appropriate and have included many opportunities for oral language development.
- Weaknesses: Open Court Reading does not explicitly teach the conventions and mechanics of writing. Open Court Reading is lacking in scaffolded instruction for students who might be below grade level.

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Great reading selections, beautiful pictures in the student anthology book. Genre practice is emphasized. All materials are easy to understand and simple to use.
- Weaknesses: There is not a year-at-a-glance plan or recommended time frame for lesson components that would better help teachers plan their time.
- Other: The way Open Court is formatted makes the program easy to use. Novice teachers may need extra time to completely read through lessons and set up the room for white-board activities etc...

## Narda Pitkethly

### Nardagani Interventive Reading Program

- **Kindergarten- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Nardagani is a sound program for explicit and systematic instruction in letter recognition and phonics. The author uses a modified-for-English, Japanese method of coding that reduces the number of sound/symbol relationships that students must know in order to become fluent word readers.
- Weaknesses: Nardagani is very limited in scope and does not offer direct instruction of concepts of print, phonemic awareness word awareness, vocabulary development, syntax or fluency. No assistance is given for helping students who complete the program transition to conventional print without the Nardagani coding system. Because of the limited number of symbols, this program does not allow for precise pronunciation of several and specific sounds in English. For example, r-controlled vowels are not taught and the letter q is

pronounced as a /k/ sound instead of a qu making a /kw/ sound. The sound/symbol correspondences are not introduced using the recommended and traditional sequence of instruction. For example, long vowels are taught prior to short vowels. (Instruction Booklet, Nardagani Interactive Software App.)

## Pearson Education

### Pearson ReadyGEN

- **Kindergarten- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Overall, this curriculum is user friendly, appealing, and very student-focused. It is evident that Pearson has created a product that meets the shifts of Career and College Readiness and meet all Idaho Content Standards in Reading. ReadyGEN is effectively organized for ease of use. The teacher’s edition is easy to navigate with tabs, strategically placed page references, and a clear sequential order. The lessons within the Teacher's Guide provide whole group, guided practice, shared practice, and independent practice each skill. ReadyGEN is a curriculum that encompasses reading with an array of strategies and tools available to each child: technology, print, workbooks, word building mats, letter tiles, which provides teachers with tools to create an individual learning experience for each student.
  - Weaknesses: Most kindergarten classes in Idaho are still on a half-day schedule. While ReadyGEN K could be taught within a half-day schedule, it does not allow time for math or other subject areas. Also, reading opportunities for significantly above-level readers is not provided. A digital or print text library for accelerated readers around the topic would be useful.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Each lesson has extensive opportunities for students to collaborate with a partner, small group, whole class, or think actively on their own.
  - Weaknesses: There are no tabs or color differentiations when going through the lessons in each module. Having a copy of the Anchor Text and Supplemental Text in the Teacher's Edition would be helpful for implementation and referencing during instruction.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Great curriculum for teachers whose students are English learners, and for struggling students.
  - Weaknesses: Texts do not offer much in the way of diversity outside of U.S. Culture. Curriculum may become expensive and bulky, as it is heavily dependent on supplemental material. Lesson plans are streamlined, so teachers are

required to look up specific information outside of the main lesson plan section (for example, in handbooks or indices).

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Weaknesses: Weaknesses include teacher support for fluency instructional techniques, and consistent, systematic writing support throughout the year, especially for text-dependent research writing.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- RG's content can reasonably be completed within a regular school year. The materials regularly provide all students at all levels reading, writing, and speaking and listening support. RG provides flexibility and instructional support for alternative approaches and pacing. RG systematically offers genuine assessments to measure progress with reading comprehension and writing proficiency to master grade level standards. RG's materials help to build students' knowledge across content areas. Students are asked to complete culminating performance tasks to demonstrate knowledge and engage in many shared, short, and focused researched projects. Vocabulary is provided for each text and module for yearlong study plans that build academic vocabulary and increase syntax. RG provides high quality text dependent questions prevalent in the material which deepen understanding central ideas found in the text. Questions are designed to support academic language and provide evidence supporting student claims. RG supports the craft, organization and development of writing with opportunities that are prominent and varied. Grammar and conventions are included for application in and out of context. RG integrates speaking and listening into daily lessons that build upon collaborate student discussion in order to develop deeper levels of thinking about the text. RG provides a balance between informational and literature high quality texts. A majority of the texts include the instructional materials and characteristics specifically required by fourth grade standards. The support materials for the anchor texts provide opportunities for students to engage in reading to achieve appropriate reading fluency.
- Weaknesses: RG does not have genres for texts specific to fourth grade standards. Such as Herculean vocabulary and first and second accounts of the text.

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: The ReadyGEN Grade 5 curriculum can be completed in the course of one school year, with opportunities for extension and enrichment. Performance-Based Assessments represent a culminating writing project. A variety of

assessment resources are provided. Program is strong in text dependent questions and activities.

- Weaknesses: While not a weakness, one organizational detail to note is that lessons are numbered and sequential, but not organized around a traditional five day cycle.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Materials include substantial attention to high quality informational text. A large majority of texts support genres required by the Idaho Content Standards at the 6th grade level. Text dependent questions and academic language are present in the majority of questions. Multiple genres of writing are taught and writing is developed daily. Speaking and listening is integrated and includes daily grammar and conventions mini lessons.
  - Weaknesses: Not all of the research projects are typical report-style research projects. Some require students to research topics like author's craft using the anchor text and then apply the skill in their own writing.

## Really Great Reading Company

### Countdown

- **Kindergarten- Component**
  - Strengths: Countdown has a strong phonics focus, designed specifically for struggling and emerging readers. Countdown is a phonics supplemental program that gives struggling and emerging readers extra practice with their foundational reading skills. The lessons provided by Countdown are short, concise, and focused; giving students opportunities to strengthen their foundational reading skills.
  - Weaknesses: Countdown, as a supplemental program, does not include culminating tasks or research projects, or an assessment piece. Anchor texts are not included for students to complete tasks using text-based evidence. Students do not have opportunities to compare and contrast informational and literary texts.

### Blast Foundations

- **Kindergarten- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Really Great Reading, Blast meets all standards for phonemic awareness and phonics skills instruction. I would recommend that Blast be used as a supplement when reading curricula is weak in early reading skills or the need to fill gaps in students reading schema is needed. Really Great Reading:

Blast Foundations primary goal is to "prevent and resolve decoding issues". The fast-paced phonemic awareness and phonics activities are "research based, direct, systematic, explicit, multisensory, sequential, and cumulative." Blast Foundations' Primary use is for prevention, RTI Tier 1 instruction in 1st grade or as whole group instruction." This program may also be used for "early intervention is small to medium groups in grades 2-3 and intense small group intervention for emerging readers in grades 4-6" as well as "beginning EL and delayed students." The functional strategies (routines) in this scripted program are simply written allowing for easy application by a teacher with little or no prior training.

- Word Sort (Book 1, page xxii)
- Detective Work (Book 1, page xxii)
- Double Trouble (Book One, page xxii)
- finger Stretching (Book 1, page ix)
- Build a Word (Book 1, page xi)
- Spell It (Book 1, page xxii)
- Flex Vowel Sounds (Book 1, page xi)
- Look, Think, Say (Book1, page xii)
- Pop Up, Three Up, Read a Row
- Really Great Reading includes a comprehension online progress monitor tool.
- Foundational Skills Surveys
- Beginning Decoding Survey
- Practice is both distributed and massed to achieve fluency for all.
- Weaknesses: The Really Great Reading: Blast Foundation is not a complete language program.

#### HD Word

- **1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: This is a component program and would specifically be used with those students who are below grade level to give them the skills to work with and meet grade level reading standards. The manipulatives that are an integral part of the program are beneficial. There is one teacher's manual for all levels of phonics instruction.

#### Phonics Boost

- **3<sup>rd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Phonics Boost is phonics curriculum and the non-negotiables (high quality text, evidence-based discussion and writing, and building knowledge) do

not apply. The strength of this program is each lesson in the Boost program offers students four distinct activities to help students practice and reinforce the concepts. The lesson(s) begin with a Word Sort, and progress through Detective Work and Words to Read, culminating in students reading sentences. As students complete the Sentences to Read activities, they can choose to read challenging, more challenging, or most challenging sentences.

- Weaknesses: Due to the absence of a writing component, the students are not afforded the opportunity to apply writing to real life using newly acquired vocabulary.

### **Phonics Boost Plus**

- **2<sup>nd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: If teachers notice a student struggling during Phonics Boost instruction and practice, or not mastering the concepts after the lesson(s), they can use their discretion to supplement with the corresponding module in Phonics Boost Plus. This will give students added practice to master the concepts taught.
- Weaknesses: No ELL component
- Other: This program is used in conjunction with Phonics Boost. Not intended to be a stand-alone program.

### **Phonics Blitz**

- **3<sup>rd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: This is a systematic program allowing for daily practice for 4-20 weeks. There are 3 levels of words and sentences for each lesson.
- Weaknesses: This is only a phonics program and does not build on other skills such as comprehension, inferencing, etc. It is a limited systematic program.

## **Zaner-Bloser**

### **Strategies for Writers**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: This curriculum provides great strategies to develop the writing skills that students need at this grade level. The grammar piece in this curriculum is also a strength. It has students practice and develop the skill then apply it to their writing which allows mastery of the skill.
- Weaknesses: This curriculum could use more speaking and listening skill practice. Through the lessons there is a speaking and listening piece but there could have

been more opportunities for students to practice speaking skills. Providing more activities for students to present their work would help.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: SFW is a flexible program that could easily work in any classroom. It provides a pacing guide that leads students through all the writing components to be a successful writer. SFW contains daily, mapped writing with step by step instructions to aid students in learning the components of the entire writing process. SFW provides high quality student assessments that gauge student learning. A high quality rubric is included to measure student growth.
- Weaknesses: SFW is a rigorous program. If proper scaffolding and supports are not given, students could easily become discouraged and overwhelmed with the writing process. Since SFW is a writing program only, it would be time consuming and create a disconnect to a reading program that is being used in the classroom.
- Other: SFW is a component writing program only.

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Zaner Bloser Strategies for writers is a component writing curriculum that exposes students to the three types of writing required in the fifth grade content standards. There are explicit opportunities for students to collaborate, incorporate academic vocabulary, and practice the elements of writing.
- Weaknesses: There are several opportunities for teachers to differentiate within the curriculum but there could be additional strategies to assist in planning out differentiation.

### **Grammar, Usage and Mechanics**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Materials do a great job for what they are designed to do, teach grammar, usage, and mechanics. Lessons are set up to be taught in 15 minute increments and can be taught in order, or as the teacher sees fit.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths:
  - Sequential, systematic, explicit
  - Addressed grammar, usage, and mechanics Idaho Content Standards
  - Connected learned skills to real-world experiences and understandings
  - Frequent speaking/listening opportunities at a basic level
- Weaknesses:
  - Writing is basic; informational writing opportunities are limited



- Speaking/listening opportunities do not include oral presentations; mostly consists of discussions and small-group collaboration
  - Other: This is a supplemental component program ONLY. It "meets" Alignment Criterion 2F, which is the only AC it purports to address. It is recommended as a "COMPONENT" program for grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics is a component curriculum specifically for teaching grammar and conventions across grade levels. The curriculum strongly meet Alignment Criterion Metric 2F receiving a score of 2out of 2. Curriculum also meet Alignment Criterion Metric 4 receiving a 9 out of 10. As such the curriculum meets the criteria of a component curriculum for Alignment Criterion Metric 2F Questions, Tasks and Assignments and Alignment Criterion Metric 4 Access to Standards for all Students. Curriculum strengths include the explicit instruction of grammar and conventions through the use of student applicable topics. The continuation of instruction from previous grade levels increase knowledge for review and scaffolding.
  - Weaknesses: G.U.M. is a component curriculum which was not designed to offer instruction in reading fluency, comprehension, or writing. Curriculum provides some alternative teaching approaches, instructional delivery options, and suggestions for addressing common student difficulties, however review team felt the curriculum would benefit from having more of these items.
  - Other: The curriculum strongly meet Alignment Criterion Metric 2F receiving a score of 2out of 2. Curriculum also meet Alignment Criterion Metric 4 receiving a 9 out of 10. As such the curriculum meets the criteria of a component curriculum for Alignment Criterion Metric 2F Questions, Tasks and Assignments and Alignment Criterion Metric 4 Access to Standards for all Students.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: If the evaluation for this material were only based on AC Metric 2F it meets both non-negotiables overall and alignment criteria overall easily.
  - Weaknesses: The largest deficit for Zaner-Bloser, G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage and Mechanics) is the text used to build the grammar usage and mechanics skills. Today's students should be presented with authentic literature that is well balance between fiction and non-fiction. The absence of auxiliary text for application should be corrected. Using authentic sources demonstrates to students that they "will use this after they graduate." The number of writing opportunities were too few. Only 24 out of 80 lessons contained a writing objectives. There as opportunity to write expository, opinion and narrative text.

If the evaluation for this material were only based on AC Metric 2F it meets both non-negotiables overall and alignment criteria overall easily.

## GRADES 6-12

### Achieve3000

#### TeenBizPro

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Other: With the Spanish addition and ELL structures it supports struggling students and students lacking background knowledge. This program could also be used to supplement teaching reading and writing across the curriculum in science and history classrooms.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: These materials could be a strong component to address student needs in the area of informational reading and writing, or to provide students with additional test preparation. It allows a high level of individualization, and students and parents also have access to their own reports and progress. It could also be used to support literacy goals in content areas such as science and social studies. It could be a useful resource to provide differentiation for a science or social studies classroom.
  - Weaknesses: The program is narrowly focused on reading informational texts. The 5-Step Routine allows students to work with some independence, but it also means the program is quite repetitive. There are a limited number of off-line, whole class lesson plans to help students develop the skills they are practicing in the on-line portion of the materials. There are also few materials for remediation if students are not succeeding in the on-line program.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Achieve3000 TeenBiz Pro provided a differentiated approach to learning. Students are exposed to high interest non-fiction text throughout the year.
  - Weaknesses: Many Idaho Content Standards are missing- (Reading for Literature, Speaking and Listening). Achieve3000 TeenBiz Pro is focused on Lexile growth; however, that is only one component to show learning within the Idaho Content Standards for English Language Arts. The website is not user friendly.

- Other: Achieve3000 TeenBiz Pro could function as a component program to a comprehensive curriculum. The area it would supplement would be specifically for informational text only.

### **EmpowerBizPro**

- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Achieve3000 is a strong, focused program designed to increase reading comprehension and Lexile levels in students across content areas.
- Weaknesses: It is not a strong ELA component as it is limited to nonfiction.
- Other: Note: publisher should verify that rubrics match assignments - see timed-write lesson - Pollution. The lesson is a writing assignment with an oral reading rubric linked.

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: By continually assessing student reading levels and adjusting the content they receive, Achieve3000 moves students to more and more complex text. The program pre- assess students to find their reading Lexile level, then the student works on their personal reading level. The program continues to assess their reading level on a monthly basis, then adjusts accordingly. Teachers can assign texts and adjust Lexile levels as well. Each assigned text has activities that work to improve students’ abilities, and tools to assist. Achieve3000 addresses all dimensions of text complexity covered in Standards: Qualitative Dimension, & Quantitative Dimension. Opportunities for discussion and writing are embedded into the teaching materials that promote repeated reading of high-quality stories and writing opportunities. Lesson formative assessment are aligned to standards. The alignment allows teachers to identify students who have and have not mastered specific standards. The report “How are my students performing on standards?” drills down to the specific standard, classifies students based on their need for intervention, and recommends follow-lessons to support further instruction. These additional lessons can be assigned to any student once the standard has been re-taught in order to give the student additional practice in the areas they are struggling with the most. The texts in lessons are high quality informational and nonfiction with a Lexile range of 250-1450. High-quality sequences of text-dependent questions requiring close reading of text and supporting evidence for responses are provided in the Teacher Materials. As a culminating step, students are asked to synthesize the information they have learned in the content area lesson to respond to an argument, informative, or narrative writing prompt.
- Weaknesses:

- No literature included.
- No evidence of texts that include similar characters, early American literature, or specific genres called for in the Standards: poetry, drama, prose, folktales, myths, and traditional literature. Specific titles of texts mentioned in the grade-specific standards (e.g., certain founding documents, Shakespeare, works from an American dramatist, folktales, myths, and traditional literature from a variety of cultures) are also not present.

Note:

- Supplemental Materials based in Informational Texts
- AC1C metric does not apply to materials for grades 6-12.
- Explicit instruction of the full range of grammar and conventions as they are applied in increasingly sophisticated context is not present. This program is teacher driven and offers opportunity for teacher to identify and teach specific grammar or convention skills.
- No literary texts available, focus is on Informational Texts primarily in Science, History, and Health. Focus is not literary.
- No embedded research projects in the online curriculum. Teacher materials provide research applications for teacher instruction.
- Other: This only an on-line supplemental program.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Students work at their own pace and are able to self-select titles to maintain interest. A full Spanish version is available. Teachers can easily monitor progress. Students are asked to cite evidence in writing. Students interact with a variety of writing prompts.
  - Weaknesses: There is no balance between literary and informational text (there is no literary texts). Speaking and listening is not fully evident.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Strengths: academic vocabulary, Lexile flexibility, culminating activities included speaking and listening, and collaborative activities.
  - Weaknesses: Weaknesses: all informational texts, lack of writing variety, lack of depth in questions, no explicit grammar or syntax assignments.
  - Other: As a component text the weaknesses still outweigh the strengths. Engaging students in comprehension reading only does not promote higher level thinking or writing skills.

## Amplify Education

### Amplify ELA

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths:
    - High-quality literary and informational texts are available to all students.
    - Ample opportunities for evidence-based writing.
    - Writing assignments are varied in length, complexity, and mode.
    - Multiple opportunities for students to discuss ideas with peers using evidence-based techniques.
    - Pacing guide allows for teachers to differentiate for all students in the class.
    - Vocabulary and grammar skills are taught and supported throughout each unit.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Amplify uses literary classics with complex texts. There are several online resources to help with vocabulary development, differentiation, and grammar. There are many opportunities for students to engage in high-interest activities such as; plays, debates, Socratic seminars, and presentations that allow for practice with speaking and listening skills. Amplify also provides many text-based questions that encourage deeper understanding of a topic.
  - Weaknesses: One of the weaknesses of this series, is the writing assignments fall short of aligning with the standards in narrative writing. Also, the series itself is difficult to navigate both online and with the text books.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Amplify uses literary classics with complex texts. There are several online resources to help with vocabulary development, differentiation, and grammar. There are many opportunities for students to engage in high-interest activities such as; plays, debates, Socratic seminars, and presentations that allow for practice with speaking and listening skills. Amplify also provides many text-based questions that encourage deeper understanding of a topic.
  - Weaknesses: One of the weaknesses of this series, is the writing assignments fall short of aligning with the standards in narrative writing. Also, the series itself is difficult to navigate both online and with the text books.

## Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishing Group

### Foundations of Language and Literature

- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade, English I- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Offers a variety of selections that encourage deeper thinking skills. Variety of questions and writing opportunities that require students to refer directly to the text. Repeated opportunities to strengthen writing skills.
  - Weaknesses: Lack of opportunities for modification/differentiation for struggling learners. Student text did not provide explicit instruction for peer collaboration. Flash drive materials are not as easily accessible for teachers and lack ample resources for struggling learners.

### Advanced Language and Literature

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade, English II- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Students are invited to engage in authentic inquiry around significant questions. The diversity of texts offers students a range of perspectives to explore. The culminating writing workshops provide opportunities for students to respond to texts, crafting source-based arguments that are rich with their own analyses.
  - Weaknesses: The major weakness of these materials is the lack of entry points for students with less developed reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. It would also be beneficial to include more texts from writers outside of the United States and the United Kingdom.

### Conversations in American Literature

- **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade, American Literature- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Culturally diverse, flexibility in teaching choice, rigor, extensive writing opportunities, good supplemental material like quizzes.
  - Weaknesses: Vocabulary building and differentiation.

## EMC Publishing

### Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Level 1- Basic**
  - Strengths:
    - Range of challenging texts designed around thematic units.
    - Students are given many opportunities to use textual evidence in their writing and discussions.

- Scaffolded approach with the guided, directed, and independent reading options.
    - Abundant vocabulary and grammar practice.
    - Strong differentiation for ELL and both above and below grade-level learners.
    - Remediation rubric provides teachers with resources to support re-teaching.
  - Weaknesses:
    - Outdated informational text selections.
    - Writing assignments are very vague and don't provide scaffolding ideas for teachers to support students.
    - Research writing lacking scaffolding and depth.
    - Writing prompts were often disconnected from unit theme/topic.
    - Student rubrics are not assisting students in determining proficiency.
    - Doesn't meet argumentative writing proportion requirements.
  - Other: This curriculum has been given a Basic rating overall because of the need for supplemental writing support. This program was strong in all other areas.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Level 2- Basic**
  - Strengths:
    - Range of challenging texts designed around thematic units.
    - Students are given many opportunities to use textual evidence in their writing and discussions.
    - Scaffolded approach with the guided, directed, and independent reading options.
    - Abundant vocabulary and grammar practice.
    - Strong differentiation for ELL and both above and below grade-level learners.
    - Remediation rubric provides teachers with resources to support re-teaching.
  - Weaknesses:
    - Outdated informational text selections.
    - Writing assignments are very vague and don't provide scaffolding ideas for teachers to support students.
    - Research writing lacking scaffolding and depth.
    - Writing prompts were often disconnected from unit theme/topic.
    - Student rubrics are not assisting students in determining proficiency.
    - Doesn't meet argumentative writing proportion requirements.

- Other: This curriculum has been given a Basic rating overall because of the need for supplemental writing support. This program was strong in all other areas.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Level 3- Basic**
  - Strengths:
    - Range of challenging texts designed around thematic units.
    - Students are given many opportunities to use textual evidence in their writing and discussions.
    - Scaffolded approach with the guided, directed, and independent reading options.
    - Abundant vocabulary and grammar practice.
    - Strong differentiation for ELL and both above and below grade-level learners.
    - Remediation rubric provides teachers with resources to support re-teaching.
  - Weaknesses:
    - Outdated informational text selections.
    - Writing assignments are very vague and don't provide scaffolding ideas for teachers to support students.
    - Research writing lacking scaffolding and depth.
    - Writing prompts were often disconnected from unit theme/topic.
    - Student rubrics are not assisting students in determining proficiency.
    - Doesn't meet argumentative writing proportion requirements.
  - Other: This curriculum has been given a Basic rating overall because of the need for supplemental writing support. This program was strong in all other areas.

## EMC Publishing

### Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature

- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Level 4- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The curriculum provides ample supplemental materials.
  - Weaknesses: Question stems lack variety, nor do they explicitly ask students to cite evidence from the texts. Larger research tasks are minimal. With so many supplemental materials, this product is not user friendly.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Level 5- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Organization by genre is beneficial and clear. Supplementary materials provide a wealth of information and instructional suggestions.



- Weaknesses: Selections lack variety, especially with regards to text complexity. Likewise, questions often lack rigor and depth.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Grade, American Tradition- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Each unit includes an anchor text and a culminating task. Anchor texts provide a balance of literary and informational texts. Writing tasks are varied. Students are asked to practice speaking and listening in a variety of ways: panel discussions, debate, and presentations.
  - Weaknesses: There are approximately 219 selections. The amount of supplemental texts make this curriculum not user-friendly; a teacher could in theory "pick and choose" materials, but the "Program Planning" indicates the use of many of the supplemental materials.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade, British Tradition- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The Differentiated Instruction Handbook for Teachers is a great help. Great support and multiple tools to help plan. Includes formative and summative assessments.
  - Weaknesses: The only weakness is a teacher might be forced to streamline curriculum to fit into the time constraints of a traditional school year.

## Empowering Writers

### Expository & Opinion, The Hub: Narrative Writing, Comprehensive Argumentative Writing

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: The materials and lessons found in Empowering Writers are full of opportunities for students to write using all three types of writing. The lessons and practice that are included in this component are evidence-based and students are required to use text to discuss, write and compare. The lessons take the writing process and break it down into different parts so students get very explicit practice with each portion of the process.
  - Weaknesses: The narrative writing practice is much less than the practice that students have with expository and argumentative. It is present in the lessons, but it is in there less than the other types of writing.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: The expository program provides teacher flexibility in gather student texts as there are limited pieces provided. In the expository program, students are writing every day. A pacing guide is provided for either a whole year approach or multiple 8-week approaches. This allows the entire curriculum to be completed in a school year.

- Weaknesses: The Narrative program is written below reading and standards grade levels. The publisher suggests the only reason to write narrative text is to entertain. This does not include varied writing such as using precise words and phrases, sensory language, conveying experiences and events, or providing conclusions that form and reflect narrated experiences and events. The program lacks academic language and use of program specific jargon does not prepare students to meet the Idaho Content Standards.
- Other: If this were evaluated solely on the expository program, it would qualify as an IMET component program.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: A pacing guide is provided for either a whole year approach or a segmented approach, thus allowing for the entire curriculum to be completed in a given school year.
  - Weaknesses: Publisher is self-contradicting in its directions for teachers throughout the book. For example, publisher states that [a 5 paragraph structure] "can result in a formulaic, one size fits all approach that limits the author". Publisher then uses a 5 paragraph model throughout the entire program (see pages 13-15). Publisher does not use the academic vocabulary (concrete details, varied transitions, author's purpose, audience, etc.) contained in the standards and instead opts to use program jargon (grocery list, golden bricks, blurbs). Publisher of the program claims to be a foundational program; foundational skills are contained in the K-2 standards.

## Great Minds

### Wit & Wisdom

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: This is a robust and comprehensive curriculum that provides a model of powerful ELA instruction. The program is implementation-ready. The curriculum is fast-paced, rigorous, and strongly aligned to Idaho Content Standards.
  - Weaknesses: It is important to note that it must be implemented as a whole. It cannot, for instance, be used as an anthology of texts to draw from. Implementation would include adoption of the specific trade books included in each module. The program is also very proscriptive. The Lesson Plans are highly structured, down to the exact questions teachers should ask students, though it also expects teachers to use professional judgment and discretion in things like

when and where to differentiate instruction. There are not a lot of specific resources for differentiation, and the curriculum is very fast-paced.

- Other: This curriculum might be best suited to high-achieving environments (like honors classes) or environments where intervention and support can be offered outside of the ELA class time.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Basic**
  - Strengths: This is a robust and comprehensive curriculum that provides a model of powerful ELA instruction. The program is implementation-ready. The curriculum is fast-paced, rigorous, and strongly aligned to Idaho Content Standards.
  - Weaknesses: It is important to note that it must be implemented as a whole. It cannot, for instance, be used as an anthology of texts to draw from. Implementation would include adoption of the specific trade books included in each module. The program is also very proscriptive. The Lesson Plans are highly structured, down to the exact questions teachers should ask students, though it also expects teachers to use professional judgment and discretion in things like when and where to differentiate instruction. There are not a lot of specific resources for differentiation, and the curriculum is very fast-paced.
  - Other: This curriculum might be best suited to high-achieving environments (like honors classes) or environments where intervention and support can be offered outside of the ELA class time.

## Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt

### HMH Collections

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: There are a wide variety of literature texts (poems, short stories, etc.) provided in the textbook and the Close Reader. The literature and informational texts have a wide Lexile range that provides accessible texts for all levels of readers. There is a heavy focus on Greek and Latin roots, prefixes, and suffixes. This leads to greater understanding of vocabulary and the English language. The academic vocabulary that is listed at the beginning of each collection is revisited in the performance task(s) at the end of that collection. There is a wide variety of speaking and listening prompts that allow the students to effectively collaborate. Texts are organized around themes, and the texts within that theme clearly relates to the main topic. The "Performance Assessment" text has great writing opportunities in the informative, argumentative categories that include scaffolded instruction as well as a final prompt without the scaffolding to test

student mastery. The eBook contains a wealth of current materials covering a wide variety of topics. The research-based assignments in the curriculum could be used for individuals or small groups.

- Weaknesses: There are more literature texts than informational texts, unless one counts those in the "Performance Assessment" and the online topic resources at <https://my.hrw.com/>. Some grammatical concepts are covered too briefly to allow for true student mastery over that content standard, but extra practice is available online in the Tutorial.
- Other: Many of the texts are cross curricular, incorporating US history, world history, science and psychology into the ELA classroom. The Performance Assessment (pg. 14) also includes analyzing the text for credibility.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Collections exposes students to a multitude of different genres. From a teacher's stand point, there are variety of resources available (Collections book, Performance Assessment, Closer Reader, Quick Start Pacing Guide, ELA Exemplar Resource, online pieces).
  - Weaknesses: Explicit instruction of vocabulary, writing, and formative assessment is not strong. Therefore, a supplemental program may need to be purchased to fully meet the Idaho Content Standards for vocabulary and writing. Teachers would also need to insert their own formative assessments throughout each selection.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Collections exposes students to a variety of genres, writing, and summative performance assessments. There are high interest texts such as "The Thrill of Horror," and "Approaching Adulthood." The availability and diversity of teacher material is strong as it includes teacher manual, assessments books, and online sources.
  - Weaknesses: Some discussions and questions are surface level and would not require students to read the entire selection. Discussion set-up can allow for students to be disengaged since it is whole group. Performance Task rubrics do not specify using textual evidence from the collections. There are missing pieces of multiple standards (classical literature, writing citations, and source analysis).
- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: There is a balance of literary selections and informational selections. Students have multiple opportunities to learn and utilize vocabulary. There are ample opportunities to practice speaking and listening. The visuals in the textbook show a variety of cultures, ethnicities, and physical abilities.

- Weaknesses: There is minimal grammar instruction. There is not an abundance of research opportunities.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Students have multiple opportunities to learn and utilize vocabulary. There are ample opportunities to practice speaking and listening.
  - Weaknesses: There is minimal grammar instruction. There is not an abundance of research opportunities.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: This program allows teachers to focus on the standards in a thematic and intense fashion. Complex and rigorous texts chosen to fit the appropriate grade-band placement are engaging and relevant. Deep analysis of text and practice citing textual evidence is a core component of this comprehensive program. Multiple opportunities for writing are woven throughout. With the Idaho State Content standards moving towards an emphasis on non-fiction text, Collections is a forward thinker that uses a multi-faceted approach that engages students of all grade levels. Assessment pieces at the end of each unit allow teachers a way to assess student mastery.
  - Weaknesses: There is very little variety of assessment format. For example, most questions are short, numbered prompts along with a performance activity.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: This program allows teachers to focus on the standards in a thematic and intense fashion. Complex and rigorous texts chosen to fit the appropriate grade-band placement are engaging and relevant. Deep analysis of text and practice citing textual evidence is a core component of this comprehensive program. Multiple opportunities for writing are woven throughout. With the Idaho State Content standards moving towards an emphasis on non-fiction text, Collections is a forward thinker that uses a multi-faceted approach that engages students of all grade levels. Assessment pieces at the end of each unit allow teachers a way to assess student mastery.
  - Weaknesses: There is very little variety of assessment format. For example, most questions are short, numbered prompts along with a performance activity.

### Read 180 Stage B

- **Grades 6-8- Intervention**
  - Strengths:
    - HIGH-QUALITY TEXT-STRENGTHS -The materials build not only complexity but increase the foundational skills, Supports all students (sped), Baseline reading Comprehension level, Place students appropriately

- EVIDENCE-BASED DISCUSSION-Strengths: Students write to demonstrate their understanding of text, writing tasks engages students in applying research-based strategies as they gather evidence and details in their work across a range of writing.
- BUILDING KNOWLEDGE-Strengths: Individualized Digital Supports, Provides immediate feedback specific to students’ errors, fostering comprehension to build a sense of success.
- RANGE AND QUALITY OF TEXTS-Strengths: Guiding students to take ownership of learning as they take on new levels of challenge.
- BUILDING KNOWLEDGE WITH TEXTS, VOCABULARY, AND TASKS-Strengths: High quality of vocabulary (Daily) Comprehension Strategies (Daily)
- Weaknesses:
  - HIGH-QUALITY TEXT-WEAKNESSES: More literature is needed to meet this requirement.
  - QUESTIONS, TASKS, AND ASSIGNMENTS- Weaknesses: No evidence that would align to Idaho Language standards 6-8
- Other: Alignment Criterion 2: Questions, Tasks, and Assignments
  - 2F -No evidence presented
  - 2G- N/A per grade level not needed
  - Meets alignment with a score of 12/14

### Read 180 Stage C

- **Grades 9-12- Intervention**

- Strengths: Read 180 Universal Stage C is a comprehensive program that allows students to achieve success in meeting the Idaho Content Standards for ELA/Literacy. Each workshop offers students multiple opportunities to engage with high-quality text, build knowledge through high-level question stems and tasks, and to build vocabulary that can be used across all classes. The Read 180 Universal program Stage C has an extended library of texts on-line; offering students the chance to engage in self-selected reading.
- Weaknesses: One weakness of the program may be in its dependence on resources found on-line. Teachers would need to be sure to have access to these resources off-line, in the event that Internet connection is not available.

### System 44 Next Generation Secondary Classroom

- **Grades 7-12- Intervention**

## IXL Learning

### IXL English Language Arts

- **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Real time data. Access to multiple levels of texts. Consistent formative assessment tasks. Range of text types allows teachers to tailor the balance of their instructional focus from grade to grade. As the grade level increases, there is a more extended focus on historical and technical informational content across all skills, as well as a larger focus on practice with argumentative texts. IXL Analytics keeps teachers up-to-date with what each student, as well as small groups, are working on to continue developing their abilities and ensure that they are engaging independently in reading. IXL Analytics makes it easy to differentiate practice in the classroom and instantly identify opportunities for one-on-one and small-group instruction.
  - Weaknesses: Non-Negotiable 1B High-Quality Text- The program content did not present materials that have been previously published or that are content rich. Non-Negotiable 2A Evidence-based Discussion and Writing-The materials do present text-dependent tasks and assignments. The question are guided.
  - Other: This program is intended as a program for reading comprehension practice, grammar skills and conventions practice. Teacher can use text selections and excerpts to create or supplement speaking, listening, discussion and writing tasks. The real time data and ease in identifying skills gaps and grouping students makes this a quality program for identifying students for specific skills teaching or re-teaching.
- **9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades- Component**
  - Strengths: Real time data. Access to multiple levels of texts. Consistent formative assessment tasks. Range of text types allows teachers to tailor the balance of their instructional focus from grade to grade. As the grade level increases, there is a more extended focus on historical and technical informational content across all skills, as well as a larger focus on practice with argumentative texts. IXL Analytics keeps teachers up-to-date with what each student, as well as small groups, are working on to continue developing their abilities and ensure that they are engaging independently in reading. IXL Analytics makes it easy to differentiate practice in the classroom and instantly identify opportunities for one-on-one and small-group instruction.
  - Weaknesses:
    - Texts are excerpts and too short to be considered complex texts. Texts have no copyright information available.

- •No Culminating task or shared research projects. Teacher can use texts selections and excerpts to create or supplement culminating activities or research projects.
- Offers only multiple choice response opportunities.
- No opportunities for students to engage in speaking and listening practice. Teachers can use text selections and excerpts and question stems to create or supplement speaking and listening practice.
- Other: This program is intended as a program for reading comprehension practice, grammar skills and conventions practice. Teacher can use text selections and excerpts to create or supplement speaking, listening, discussion and writing tasks. The real time data and ease in identifying skills gaps and grouping students makes this a quality program for identifying students for specific skills teaching or re-teaching.

## McGraw-Hill School Education

### StudySync

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths:
    - Wide range of texts available for all students.
    - Deep thinking and textual evidence-based discussion questions.
    - Explicit grammar and vocabulary.
    - Full-text studies within each unit.
    - Lightweight student accountability.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Anchor texts are well written to help students understand the power of writing. The text range in diversity and Lexile levels allowing an opportunity for all students to connect with texts and to create meaning. The texts are also cross curricular to allow collaboration and connections to other subjects. The students are able to explore multiple genres, text types (poetry, narratives, short stories, biographies, essays, etc.). Older texts are set side by side with newer texts to help students analyze, compare and contrast, and connect to the units over all theme. The reading is progressive and allows students to build on their abilities. The complexity of the texts also grow in complexity throughout the unit and the year allowing students to grow in their knowledge, engage with more difficult texts, and experience well written texts.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**



- Strengths: Every component of the Idaho Standards has been met with the StudySync program.
- Weaknesses: Some on-line access materials may be hard to access if district does not have easy internet access.
- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The selection of texts and design of many of the prompts and tasks will engage students in building knowledge and developing skills. The essential questions are strong and texts are well chosen to support students in exploring the complexity of the issues.
  - Weaknesses: Some on-line access materials may be hard to access if district does not have easy internet access.
  - Other: The teacher materials are not user friendly and would pose unnecessary complications for teachers as they plan instruction.
- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: Reading selections progress in text complexity across units and grades, with challenging texts accompanied by scaffolding to aid students in grasping the full depth of their meaning over the course of a lesson. Students are asked to engage with increasingly sophisticated texts, and to engage with more accessible texts in an increasingly sophisticated and deep manner.
  - Weaknesses: The Teacher's Edition does not have the student reading passages included. The curriculum is heavily dependent on the on-line resources. Teachers would need to be sure to have access to these resources off-line, in the event that Internet connection is not available. For example every unit has an accompanying online administered cold read based and standards aligned end of unit assessment where students can demonstrate their progress toward standard mastery. Students complete multiple activities with StudySync's digital tools to creatively interact with terms and definitions.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: StudySync for grade 11 is a piece in the StudySync program. Each grade level builds upon the one below it so that there is a broad scope and sequence that allows students to find success in meeting the Idaho State Content standards for ELA/Literacy. Students receive instruction in grammar and language, speaking and listening skills, writing responses, research projects, and diving in to high quality texts to explore today's prevalent themes.
  - Weaknesses: One weakness may be that a bigger portion of extended resources, for both students and teachers, is found online. Teachers and districts might consider the benefits and drawbacks to heavy reliance on technology.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: The strengths are the levels of differentiation, the supplemental materials, and the various writing opportunities. StudySync does allow flexibility for teachers to tailor the materials to fit their time constraints and student needs with suggested plans, readings, and assessment.
- Weaknesses: Units are too heavily influenced by American writers and readings, lose the richness of British Literature, lose the importance and influence of the historical periods, it would be nice to see more of the influential and engaging traditional Brit Lit pieces and texts. The levels of engagement required for the on-line text are nearly overwhelming and would assume an adoption of this test would require extensive training. Also, this text would require the students to have one to one devices which may not be accessible for all students or school districts. Publisher needs to update.

## Pearson Education

### myPerspectives English Language Arts

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: The works within the curriculum are well-focused. The curriculum almost perfectly meets the expectation that students should read 45% narrative and 55% informative texts. The questions the publisher provides after each text are designed to lead students gradually into higher-level thinking questions that allow them to engage with the text in a meaningful way. The unit design is coherent and is focused around an open-ended essential question that leads students to a significant in-depth analysis of that topic so that they can develop evidence- and research-based opinions based on the texts within the curriculum. The publisher also suggests novels that would pair well with each unit and provides a rationale for each recommended novel. Each unit has a couple performance tasks that allow the student to build the skills they will need for the culminating assessment at the end of each unit. The pacing suggested by the publisher is realistic and covers 180 days.
- Weaknesses: The writing prompts provided by the publisher do not meet the expected proportions of 35% expository writing, 35% argumentative writing, and 30% narrative. The current curriculum balance is 46% exposition, 25% argument, and 29% narrative. The teacher would have to supplement the provided argument writing prompts with an additional three prompts, though the narrative percentage is rather close to the expected proportion. The grammar instruction is uneven in scope throughout the curriculum - some of the concepts are practiced enough that the students could achieve mastery over that content

standard, however some standards are only visited once and would need to be supplemented by resources from the teacher for students to truly master that grammar skill. In addition, while students have the opportunity to interact with and learn new vocabulary, the publisher does not require students to use this vocabulary in the performance writing tasks. This is a missed opportunity for authentic student engagement with complex syntax and understanding of the vocabulary terms.

- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: The use of academic vocabulary and how it builds through the entire year is a positive strength. There are multiple opportunities for students to explore language and use what they learn continuously throughout the unit. Most of the questions require students to provide evidence in their answers and writing. This program creates routines for students and teachers, has a variety of texts available, and straight forward instruction.
- Weaknesses: One thing for districts to keep in mind that without access to the internet multiple texts would not be available. This could impede student's ability to explore subjects deep or to continue to explore topics they find interesting on their own. Also, the presentations asked of the student's may be difficult to complete without access to the internet components.
- Other: One possible draw back for districts is that student choice for independent learning is on line only and that trade books need to be purchased separately.

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths: Major strengths include continuity of content, cross-curricular connections, an immense digital library, and many effective tools for teachers. Meets the needs of all learners by providing supports online and within texts. Performance tasks give students repeated practice with writing and speaking/listening skills throughout the year.
- Weaknesses: Alignment to Idaho Writing Task standards doesn't match to suggested percentages. This does not impact overall quality of resource. Bounce Page App is not yet consistently reliable, and as a digital tool may not be accessible for all students in all schools.

- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**

- Strengths:
  - Planning guides with differentiation strategies, connections to standards, recommendations for instruction, Lexile level and choice texts in place at the beginning of each unit, and selections.
  - Online resources provide audio in English/Spanish learners, extra texts.

- **10<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths:
    - Planning guides with differentiation strategies, connections to standards, recommendations for instruction, Lexile level and choice texts in place at the beginning of each unit, and selections.
    - Online resources provide audio in English/Spanish learners, extra texts.
    - Choice in texts, connections of texts.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The structure of the program, the Launch, Whole-Class, Small-Group, and Independent Learning sections naturally scaffold instruction and learning while allowing for differentiation for all students. The digital platform offers an abundance of support and enrichment materials. The program is comprehensive as related to the Idaho Content Standards.
  - Weaknesses: No weakness were found.
  - Other: Publisher should note pagination errors. The text misplaces pages 695-704A between pages 200 and 201.
- **12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Comprehensive**
  - Strengths: The structure of the program, the Launch, Whole-Class, Small-Group, and Independent Learning sections naturally scaffold instruction and learning while allowing for differentiation for all students. The digital platform offers an abundance of support and enrichment materials. The program is comprehensive as related to the Idaho Content Standards.
  - Weaknesses: No weakness were found.
  - Other: It should be noted that the Anchor Texts are all British literature, and there are few non-British texts, although the title of the textbook is "British and World Literature."

## Really Great Reading Company

### HD Word

- **6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: This is a component program and would specifically be used with those students who are below grade level to give them the skills to work with and meet grade level reading standards. The manipulatives that are an integral part of the program are beneficial. There is one teacher's manual for all levels of phonics instruction.

## Phonics Boost

- **6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Phonics Boost is phonics curriculum and the non-negotiables (high quality text, evidence-based discussion and writing, and building knowledge) do not apply. The strength of this program is each lesson in the Boost program offers students four distinct activities to help students practice and reinforce the concepts. The lesson(s) begin with a Word Sort, and progress through Detective Work and Words to Read, culminating in students reading sentences. As students complete the Sentences to Read activities, they can choose to read challenging, more challenging, or most challenging sentences.
  - Weaknesses: Due to the absence of a writing component, the students are not afforded the opportunity to apply writing to real life using newly acquired vocabulary.

## Phonics Boost Plus

- **6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: If teachers notice a student struggling during Phonics Boost instruction and practice, or not mastering the concepts after the lesson(s), they can use their discretion to supplement with the corresponding module in Phonics Boost Plus. This will give students added practice to master the concepts taught.
  - Weaknesses: No ELL component
  - Other: This program is used in conjunction with Phonics Boost. Not intended to be a stand-alone program.

## Phonics Blitz

- **3<sup>rd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: This is a systematic program allowing for daily practice for 4-20 weeks. There are 3 levels of words and sentences for each lesson.
  - Weaknesses: This is only a phonics program and does not build on other skills such as comprehension, inferencing, etc. It is a limited systematic program.

## Zaner-Bloser

### Strategies for Writers

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: There are a wide variety of high-quality writing prompts contained within this curriculum. There are 4-5 assignments for each type of writing (narrative, informative, and argument). The prompts are delivered in an

accessible way for all students through the use of a student voice. The publisher has many "think-aloud" moments from the student writers in the book that help students figure out how to break down each assignment. Many of the assignments require writing to sources or some sort of research.

- Weaknesses: The weakness of this curriculum is that it does not meet the expected percentage breakdown for narrative, informative, and argumentative writing. While there are an appropriate amount of narrative and informative writing prompts, there are not enough argumentative prompts. If the publisher had included one more argumentative prompt, the expected writing proportions would have been met (see Alignment Criterion 2C).
- Other: Due to the fact that this is a component program, this curriculum meets the intended focus of the curriculum and has received a "meets" score even though the points do not fit the requirements for "meets."
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Strategies for Writing 7th Grade is an in-depth writing and grammar program. The program allows flexibly in the order a teacher or district can teach the different types of writing.
  - Weaknesses: Strategies for Writing 8th does not thoroughly cover the reading component.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Strategies for Writing 8th Grade is an in-depth writing and grammar program. The program allows flexibly in the order a teacher or district can teach the different types of writing.
  - Weaknesses: Strategies for Writing 8th does not thoroughly cover the reading component.

### **Grammar, Usage and Mechanics**

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths:
    - Detailed and differentiated planning guide for each lesson.
    - Pre & Post assessments provide easy way to monitor student progress and acquisition of skills.
    - Easy to use format for mini-lessons and interventions.
  - Weaknesses: Not enough authentic speaking and listening practice for each skill addressed.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: G.U.M. is a solid starting point for instruction. Lessons are designed to be 15 minutes long, so they could be done as an independent bell-ringer. Units

are clearly focused on cross-curricular topics. Each lesson follows the same pattern of Read and Analysis, Practice, Apply, and Reinforce.

- Weaknesses: The Zaner-Bloser Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics is curriculum that teaches grammar in isolation. It is not an embedded grammar program. The teacher lesson plans are not explicit. There is no discussion piece. Lessons are designed as very worksheet heavy.
- Other: Meets criteria for Standards 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3. Does not meet the criteria for Standards 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: G.U.M. is a solid starting point for instruction. Lessons are designed to be 15 minutes long, so they could be done as an independent bell-ringer. Units are clearly focused on cross-curricular topics. Each lesson follows the same pattern of Read and Analysis, Practice, Apply, and Reinforce.
  - Weaknesses: The Zaner-Bloser Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics is curriculum that teaches grammar in isolation. It is not an embedded grammar program. The teacher lesson plans are not explicit. There is no discussion piece. Lessons are designed as very worksheet heavy.
  - Other: Meets criteria for Standards 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3. Does not meet the criteria for Standards 8.4, 8.5, and 8.6.

## HANDWRITING

### Learning Without Tears

#### Kick Start Kindergarten

- **Kindergarten- Component**
  - Strengths: This program has many strengths. It uses a double line format which identifies and assists in size and formation of letters. Spacing between words is reinforced throughout the curriculum with direct instruction provided in each lesson plan. The curriculum teaches formation of letters and numbers in groups that are similar in the way in which they are formed. Each "tricky letter" has a story that accompanies the letter. The multi-sensory activities reflect varied learning styles, such as auditory, tactile, visual, and kinesthetic.
  - Weaknesses: The program has many interactive digital resources to enhance lessons and provide multi-sensory activities. A majority of these resources come at an additional cost.

## Letters and Numbers for Me

- **Kindergarten- Component**

- Strengths: This program has many strengths. It uses a double line format which identifies and assists in size and formation of letters. Spacing between words is reinforced throughout the curriculum with direct instruction provided in each lesson plan. The curriculum teaches formation of letters and numbers in groups that are similar in the way in which they are formed. Each "tricky letter" has a story that accompanies the letter. The multi-sensory activities reflect varied learning styles, such as auditory, tactile, visual, and kinesthetic.
- Weaknesses: The program has many interactive digital resources to enhance lessons and provide multi-sensory activities. A majority of these resources come at an additional cost.

## My Printing Book

- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Every lesson has cross-curricular connection, enrichment and support elements in the Teacher edition. The multi-sensory techniques reinforce formation location to reduce reversals.
- Weaknesses: Teacher's Edition and Student books don't always correlate creating navigation issues. Yearly subscriptions are required for on-line tools. Internet access is not always possible in some rural districts. Consumables for workbooks and HWT lined paper would be an additional yearly cost.
- Other: This program uses a two solid line format to guide the forming of letters that is different from most handwriting programs and doesn't correlate with writing paper found at most schools. The lines are used for the base and middle reference of each letter. Consumable workbooks are essential for each student to complete the program.

## Printing Power

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Printing Power is free from bias and provides instruction support for all learning styles. Digital resources are available for students and teacher. Interactive tools, QR Codes, HITT (Handwriting Interactive Teaching Tool), Sing & Move, myLWTears.com, & Click Away. Printing Power supports all learning styles with differentiated instruction for Support/ELL students, Enrichment, and Cross Curricular Connections for every lesson. The multi-sensory activities provide extra support as well. Printing Power provides daily self-checking and teacher



evaluations for assessment. Printing Power is designed to support many varied differentiated learning styles. Great for small group differentiated instruction.

- Weaknesses: Printing Power provides a basic overall design; featuring gray scale pictures that will minimally engage students in second grade. Handwriting speed is not a focus as per the ICS HW.2.1, but an underlying skill worked on throughout the curriculum.

### **Cursive Handwriting**

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: This program has a lot of strengths. Students are actively engaged through the various activities with fun sayings as they form letters. There are multiple options for differentiation activities. The content is available to all students.
- Weaknesses: This program doesn't really have any weaknesses. It is well rounded and provides all that it needs to for a cursive program.

### **Cursive Success**

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: HWT is a well-organized handwriting tool for cursive success in fourth grade. HWT scaffolds well between grade levels and grade level lessons. Cross curricular content is evident and allows for student learning to excel in cursive writing.
- Weaknesses: HWT does not provide reading levels or Lexile of the text complexity in the student's writing workbook. This is important to developing reading ability.

### **Can-Do Cursive**

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

- Strengths: Learning Without Tears: Can-Do Cursive for grade 5 explicitly instructs students' use of cursive with only a 2:94 page opportunity to use print. The clean style of Can-Do Cursive allows for a fast-paced review of easily formed letters. For letters with difficult connections the pace is slowed and the amount of practice is increased. This concise developmental sequence supports a fifth grade student's ability of write fluently in cursive. Research Review pages 6/7.
- Weaknesses: The Can-Do Cursive for Grade 5 does not have a teacher's edition. There is also no digital component as well.

## Zaner-Bloser

### Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

- **Kindergarten- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser Handwriting K instructs directional strokes modeling with specific language that is continued through all grade levels. Directional strokes then build letters. While practicing letters phonemes and grapheme are reinforced in illustrations and words. Teachers are supported with helps tips occupational therapist and ELL clearly marked on the lesson in the TE. Student editions are clean. Layout is the same two page spread for each lesson. Repetition of the layout can help non-readers anticipate instruction and be successful. Online lessons are projectable for teacher to model. QR codes reinforce correct directional strokes and phonemes. eToolKit provides teacher and student with animated modeling. Review practice is after every three lessons and the entire alphabet is practice repeatedly. Additional practice is presented in kinesthetic, auditory, and visual learning styles.
  - Other: Digital and other on line resources are available, but not necessary to support a strong program
- **1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser Handwriting for 1st Grade provides engaging age appropriate videos and graphics. This program also scaffolds and supports the lessons to incorporate writing informative, narrative and sight words at an independent level. Requires students to self-evaluate with the rubric keys of shape, size, spacing and slant. The practice text utilizes cross-curricular content to engage students.
  - Weaknesses: Consumable workbooks are essential for each student to complete this program. Internet access is needed for many components, and although Wi-Fi is prevalent in the bigger cities, it can be very spotty in some of our more remote districts.
  - Other: This handwriting curriculum is aesthetically pleasing, seamless to implement, systematic and engaging for students.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Manuscript- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser handwriting is free from bias and provides instruction support for all learning styles. It includes OT tips, ELL support for every lesson, Support for auditory, visual, & kinesthetic learners. Tutor QR codes, Handwriting eTool Kit, Handwriting Apps, Fonts, and Teacher editions are available digitally for all students and teachers. ZB Handwriting follows the Idaho Handwriting Standards building on each year prior to the next with handwriting strokes and

writing reinforcement. ZB Handwriting encourages student self-checking as well as teacher evaluation for the transfer of handwriting across curriculum.

- Weaknesses: Handwriting speed is not a focus as per the ICS HW.2.1, but an underlying skill worked on throughout the curriculum.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Cursive- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser handwriting is free from bias and provides instruction support for all learning styles. It includes OT tips, ELL support for every lesson, cross-curricular connections, and technology inclusion. Tutor QR codes, Handwriting eTool Kit, Handwriting Apps, Fonts, and Teacher editions are available digitally for all students and teachers. ZB Handwriting follows the Idaho Handwriting Standards building on each year prior to the next with handwriting strokes and writing reinforcement. ZB Handwriting encourages student self-checking as well as teacher evaluation for the transfer of handwriting across curriculum.
  - Weaknesses: Handwriting speed is not a focus as per the ICS HW.2.1, but an underlying skill worked on throughout the curriculum.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser provides quality handwriting instruction and practice. It begins with a comprehensive review of manuscript writing. Students are introduced to letters by stroke type. The teacher edition is clear, concise, and easy to follow. The student workbook is colorful and engaging.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Grade 4 provides the instructional information and practice opportunities to meet the Idaho Content Standards. The QR codes that access short videos explaining various aspects of handwriting including correct formation will support students and teachers.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**
  - Strengths: This program has many components that will help it to reach all students. There are connections to other countries and different strategies of teaching handwriting. The materials are easily accessible and use real pictures instead of cartoons. Many of the pictures actually tie in to the sentences kids are writing. This could allow teachers to connect content reading to their handwriting practice. Students can do "maintenance" practice while they are completing the program or after they have completed it so they do not lose the muscle memory they gained while learning the letters.
  - Weaknesses: This is a strong handwriting program with no noticeable weaknesses.

- **7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Component**

---

**For Questions Contact**

Instructional Support for Student-Centered Learning  
Idaho State Department of Education  
650 W State Street, Boise, ID 83702  
208 332 6800 | [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)