2015 Instructional Material Summer Review Institute

Grade K – 8 : English Language Arts/Reading; CORE Reading Intervention; Modern, Classical and Native Languages

**Review Team Appraisal of Title – English Language Arts/Reading**

This information is provided for local school boards and governing authorities of charter schools to consider in their selection process to meet the needs of their student population.

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| Text Title: | Collections Student Edition Grade 8 | Publisher: | Houghton Mifflin Harcourt |
| Course: | 8th Grade ELA | Grade Level: | 8 |
| SE ISBN: | 9780544090958 | TE ISBN: | 9780544087064 |

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| **SECTION 1 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL 554 2. #17 TOTAL 596 3. #18 TOTAL 596  Average Score: 582 |
| **SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1:   * As one would hope, the writing projects in the eighth grade edition of *Collections* include tasks are noticeably more extensive and rigorous than those offered in earlier grade editions. * Traditional selections (e.g., *Tom Sawyer, Tell-Tale Heart*) are nicely mixed with some neither traditionally seen, much less seen together (e.g., a comparison/contrast exercise involving speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis). * From an EL perspective, the improvement in (Sherman Alexis, Gary Soto, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman) cultural diversity seen in the eighth grade edition was welcome. |
| **SECTION 2 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL165 2. #17 TOTAL175 3. #18 TOTAL 165  Average Score: 168 |
| **SECTION 2.A ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.A:   * The teacher’s edition includes many valuable extensions and elaborations not in the student edition. * Online resources have abundant opportunities—for example and in particular, vocabulary—to improve student proficiency. * Students are provided questions which prompt discussion; the performance tasks prepare them well in regards to answering those questions. |
| **SECTION 2.B ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.B:   * The publishers have coupled the teacher and student editions with many valuable print and online resources. If a school or district adopts this program, care should be taken to make full use of those assets. * Online assessments carry some engaging devices (interactive slide agreement/disagreement scales) and perspectives (“To what extent does the speaker resort to snob appeal?”) to attract student interest. * The reading selections are preceded by a “Setting Purpose” to help the reader determine purpose for reading, and to determine what to look for in the reading. |
| **Reviewer Comments** |
| Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Nine years teaching, English 11 and AP L&C  Comments: The eighth grade edition progresses nicely from the sixth and seventh grade offerings.  Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: Eighteen years of teaching, English III and AP Lang for the last six. Comments: This most comprehensive of the middle-school offerings from the publisher include the most engaging readings and exercises of them all.  Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: Twenty-one years of teaching, fifteen in ELA along with eight in secondary ELL. Comments: The reading selections in the eighth grade edition seem to be of a kind and quality which are appreciably more engaging and challenging than the sixth and seventh grade editions. |