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: | Pearson System of Courses, Seventh Grade | Publisher: | Pearson Education, Inc. |
| Course: | 7th Grade ELA | Grade Level: | 7 |
| SE ISBN: | 9780133316797 | TE ISBN: | 9780133316797 |

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| **SECTION 1 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL 561 2. #17 TOTAL 542 3. #18 TOTAL 525 Average Score: 543 |
| **SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: * One particularly impressive aspect is the pattern in which students are asked to respond to a passage by writing a parallel piece from a different perspective (first to third, changing character, etc.) and then having the students, rather than comparing two pieces on the same event from different authors, compare the piece they wrote with the original to discover differences, explore perspective, or simply to improve writing.
* The text selection, across the entire course and within units, provides a rich and broad assortment of pieces. The units on the Holocaust (Anne Franke as a centerpiece) and civil rights provide excellent examples.
* With the electronic platform, speeches are a regular feature. Kids have the opportunity to write and present their own speeches based on the issues and speeches they’ve seen. In fact, nearly every unit (the reviewers couldn’t recall one without, but it may be there) has well-structured and engaging opportunities for presentations.
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| **SECTION 2 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL165 2. #17 TOTAL170 3. #18 TOTAL 170 Average Score: 168 |
| **SECTION 2.A ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.A:      * One standard asks if the “content endorses sound research-based practices and is engaging to a range of diverse students.” The scaffolding, layout of units, broad range of texts all point to a rousing endorsement of the PSC on this point.
* Another standard calls for speaking and listening tasks that are complex, of wide latitude and are high quality. Partly because of the opportunities inherent in the electronic platform, but more because of the thought given to the program, the Pearson System of Courses also excels here.
* Each unit, each topic, is supported by several genres. Additionally, the questions within the unit are of the high-level, critical-thinking variety.

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| **SECTION 2.B ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.B: * The cooperative/group projects are laid out with much more in the way of objectives and support than what one normally expects from a major-publisher text.
* The teacher’s edition provides support, guidance, and useful information three levels deep, at least.
* The teacher’s edition also has links to a myriad of resources for particular, differentiated needs such as spelling, grammar, etc.
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| **Reviewer Comments** |
| Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Nine years teaching, Level III, English 11 and AP L&C Comments: Fine, rigorous, engaging and productive work throughout.  Comments: Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: Eighteen years of teaching, English III and AP Lang for the last six. Comments: The deeper one gets into the Pearson System of Courses, truly the more impressed one is. Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: Twenty-one years of teaching, fifteen in ELA along with eight in secondary ELL. Comments: The art (photographs, paintings, etc.) included with each unit is of consistently high quality, question-provoking, and intimately connected with the unit in which it is offered.  |