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, Eighth Grade | Publisher: | Pearson Education, Inc. |
| Course: | 8th Grade ELA | Grade Level: | 8 |
| SE ISBN: | 9780133326803 | TE ISBN: | 9780133326803 |

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| **SECTION 1 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 1 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL 582 2. #17 TOTAL 553 3. #18 TOTAL 575 Average Score: 570 |
| **SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 1: * As with other Pearson offerings, the ubiquitous inclusion of thoughtful writing tasks, and the full panoply from think/writes to research, is impressive.
* All the reviewers noted the inclusion of works (e.g., *The Crucible*) typically associated with high school moving into the Common Core mid-school texts as an indicator of the welcome oncoming and ongoing increase in rigor.
* Vocabulary is naturally embedded, with strategies offered to assist kids to determine meaning. Artificially constructed vocabulary exercises, independent of reading, discussion, or such, are (happily!) not to be found.
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| **SECTION 2 SCORE** |
| Reviewer # and Section 2 Total: 1. #16 TOTAL160 2. #17 TOTAL170 3. #18 TOTAL 175 Average Score: 168 |
| **SECTION 2.A ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.A:      * Unit assessments, as in the other grade offerings, are natural and integral products of the readings and tasks previewed and practiced during the unit. Students have ample opportunity to practice on, and become proficient at, skills prior to being tested on them.
* The balance between individual, teacher-led, small group, and all-class activities means class days are varied, engaging, productive—and that students simultaneously grow both as individuals and as members of a classroom community.
* Literary texts are content rich, representing the panoply of genres and subject matters.
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| **SECTION 2.B ASSESSMENT** |
| Review Team Assessment of material’s compliance with Section 2.B: * The teacher’s edition is online and accessible.
* The teacher’s edition flows nicely with the student work.
* The teacher’s edition offers multiple suggestions for differentiation and inclusion, as well as possible activity alternatives, for every unit.
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| **Reviewer Comments** |
| Reviewer #: 16 Reviewer Background: Nine years teaching, Level III, English 11 and AP L&C Comments: As this is the third Pearson System of Courses grade offering reviewed, I have not much new to add except to say that I have been very pleasantly surprised and greatly impressed by the series. Reviewer #: 17 Reviewer Background: Eighteen years of teaching, English III and AP Lang for the last six. Comments: The organization of the units, both within and between, provides a great variety of issues and builds skills nicely one atop the other through the year. Reviewer #: 18 Reviewer Background: Twenty-one years of teaching, fifteen in ELA along with eight in secondary ELL. Comments: Units are interesting; all the reviewers had to focus on the job at hand, as the temptation to stop and read parts or all of any of the units was constantly present.  |