**3-5 English Language Arts / Literacy Survey**

1. What English Language Arts/Literacy program(s) are you using with the majority of your students this school year? For each program used, indicate whether it is used as primary or support material. If you do not use a program, please leave that row blank.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Primary Material | Support Material | Neither |
| Accelerated Reader |  |  |  |
| Book It! |  |  |  |
| Reading Street/Scott Foresman-Pearson |  |  |  |
| Scholastic Direct Instruction |  |  |  |
| District adopted common basal series |  |  |  |
| Harcourt Reading/Harcourt |  |  |  |
| Great Source |  |  |  |
| Trophies/Harcourt |  |  |  |
| Journeys |  |  |  |
| Houghton Mifflin Reading/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt |  |  |  |
| MacMillan/McGraw-Hill |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Support Material | Neither | Primary Material |
| Literacy by Design/Houghton Mifflin  Harcourt |  |  |  |
| RAZ-Kids |  |  |  |
| Treasures/Macmillan-McGraw-Hill |  |  |  |
| Literature or Elements of Literature/Holt McDougal |  |  |  |
| SRA Reading or Open Court Reading |  |  |  |
| Trade Books |  |  |  |
| Reading Wonders/McGraw-Hill |  |  |  |
| Storytown/Harcourt |  |  |  |
| Prentice Hall Literature/Prentice Hall Pearson |  |  |  |
| Other *(please specify)* |  |  |  |

1. In the last 12 months, how much training, professional development, or professional learning about the Common Core State Standards have you participated in total?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | None | ½ day (1-4 hours) | 1 day (5-8 hours) | 2 days (9-16 hours) | 3 days | 4-5 days | >5 days |
| General training on the Common Core State Standards |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Content-specific training on the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. How familiar are you with the Common Core State Standards for the grade(s)/subject(s) you teach?

🔿 Very unfamiliar

🔿 Somewhat unfamiliar

🔿 Somewhat familiar

🔿 Very familiar

The next section is designed to provide a collective snapshot of the current Common Core English/Language Arts knowledge and practice in your local setting. In order to gather the most accurate information, please do not guess on the items, and answer as candidly as possible. Remember that many items have no correct or incorrect answers.

1. In the following list, which tool(s), if any, do you use? *(Please check ALL that apply.)*

❒ ATOS

❒ Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)

❒ Flesch-Kincaid

❒ The Lexile Framework

❒ Reading Maturity Metric

❒ SourceRater

❒ Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor

❒ Other *(please specify)* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

❒ I do not use any quantitative tools.

1. Give the title of a text you recently taught to your class:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For questions 6-9, please use the title of the text you identified in question 5.

1. Approximately how many students read the text you identified in question 5? *(Select one.)*

🔿 All

🔿 Most

🔿 Some

🔿 Few

1. Select the category that *best* describes the text you identified in question 5:

🔿 Poetry

🔿 Science fiction/Fantasy

🔿 Biography

🔿 Newspaper/Magazine

🔿 Other Fiction

🔿 Other Nonfiction

1. Please select the option that *best* applies to the text you identified in question 5:

🔿 I chose (or helped choose) this text.

🔿 It is part of the district curriculum.

🔿 It is part of the school curriculum.

🔿 It is part of the state adopted curriculum.

🔿 It has been traditionally taught for this class.

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements as they apply to the text you identified in question 5:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly disagree | Somewhat disagree | Somewhat agree | Strongly agree |
| (a) The text really engages my students. |  |  |  |  |
| (b) The reading level is at the grade level that I am teaching. |  |  |  |  |
| (c) The reading level is appropriate for the abilities of my students. |  |  |  |  |
| (d) This text has worked well for me in the past. |  |  |  |  |
| (e) The content of the text fits well within what we are studying. |  |  |  |  |

1. The next set of questions asks about your last English Language Arts/Literacy unit. Please indicate the level of emphasis during that unit for each of the following activities:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not an emphasis | Minor emphasis | Major emphasis |
| (a) Reading a text |  |  |  |
| (b) Discussing language author uses in text or themes or ideas found in the text |  |  |  |
| (c) Relating a text to other texts |  |  |  |
| (d) Making connections to student experiences |  |  |  |
| (e) Discussing vocabulary words |  |  |  |
| (f) Narrative/creative writing |  |  |  |
| (g) Informational/persuasive writing |  |  |  |
| (h) Foundational reading skills (K- 5) |  |  |  |
| (i) Speaking and listening skills |  |  |  |
| (j) Attending to grammar and writing conventions |  |  |  |
| (k) Other *(please specify)* |  |  |  |

1. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements as they relate to your English Language Arts/Literacy teaching this school year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly disagree | Somewhat disagree | Somewhat agree | Strongly agree | Not applicable |
| (a) I figure out additional structures and scaffolds for all of my students. |  |  |  |  |  |
| (b) I deemphasize sections of the text if I think they are too difficult for my students. |  |  |  |  |  |
| (c) I take challenging sections of the text and reword them so that my students can  understand. |  |  |  |  |  |
| (d) I provide more advanced texts for students who are reading above grade level. |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly disagree | Somewhat disagree | Somewhat agree | Strongly agree | Not applicable |
| (e) In addition to the text, I provide easier texts for students who are reading below  grade level. |  |  |  |  |  |
| (f) The majority of texts I assign to my students are fiction. |  |  |  |  |  |
| (g) All of my students read the same text. |  |  |  |  |  |

The Common Core emphasizes giving all students access to complex text, which is characterized by the presence of academic vocabulary and varied sentence structures. The CCSS defines a model for determining how easy or difficult a particular text is to read based on qualitative and quantitative components. The following questions focus on the qualitative aspects of text complexity.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Common Core emphasizes regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary (also known as Tier 2 vocabulary), including words which are highly generalizable and represent subtle or precise ways to say relatively simple things. Academic vocabulary helps students access and understand increasing levels of complex texts across all content areas.

You can refer to the following excerpt to answer questions 12-26.

1. In the bolded type area of the excerpt below, please circle the SIX different examples of academic vocabulary:

**Basic Archaeology: What's a Midden?**

It might sound a little silly, but archaeologists can find out a lot about people by looking through their trash.

People throw away things because those things aren't important or because the people have too much of those things already. By sifting through the garbage pile of a civilization, archaeologists can find out what was important to those people (or what they had too much of).

**Why is this important? Sometimes, garbage is all that's left of a people. Especially if that people has been conquered by others, the buildings, tools, and food were probably consumed or destroyed long ago. A people's trash, especially if it was also trash to the invaders, might be left alone, enabling archaeologists to discover more about a people who left few clues to what they liked and didn't like.**

**Did they wear certain clothes? What kinds of food did they eat? What kind of tools did they use or throw away? Answers to all these questions can be found by sifting through a midden.**

It could also be possible to find out more about a conquered people by searching the midden of their conquerors. Some invaders, not really knowing what's valuable to the people they're conquering, might very well throw away things that are extremely valuable. It is left to archaeologists to find these things and piece together the life stories of people long since conquered.

One person's trash could be another person's treasure.

The Common Core emphasizes regular practice with informational text and its domain-specific vocabulary, generally words that have low frequency use and are limited to specific knowledge domains. Domain-specific vocabulary (also known as Tier 3 vocabulary) helps students access and understand informational texts specific to content areas taught in school.

1. In the bolded type area of the excerpt below, please circle the FOUR different examples of domain-specific vocabulary:

**Basic Archaeology: What's a Midden?**

It might sound a little silly, but archaeologists can find out a lot about people by looking through their trash.

People throw away things because those things aren't important or because the people have too much of those things already. By sifting through the garbage pile of a civilization, archaeologists can find out what was important to those people (or what they had too much of).

**Why is this important? Sometimes, garbage is all that's left of a people. Especially if that people has been conquered by others, the buildings, tools, and food were probably consumed or destroyed long ago. A people's trash, especially if it was also trash to the invaders, might be left alone, enabling archaeologists to discover more about a people who left few clues to what they liked and didn't like.**

**Did they wear certain clothes? What kinds of food did they eat? What kind of tools did they use or throw away? Answers to all these questions can be found by sifting through a midden.**

It could also be possible to find out more about a conquered people by searching the midden of their conquerors. Some invaders, not really knowing what's valuable to the people they're conquering, might very well throw away things that are extremely valuable. It is left to archaeologists to find these things and piece together the life stories of people long since conquered.

One person's trash could be another person's treasure.

1. Based on the academic vocabulary and figurative language in the excerpted text, please determine the level of complexity of its CONVENTIONALITY and VOCABULARY. Indicate your answer by placing an X in the corresponding area of the scale.

Conventionality and vocabulary:

0 1 2 3 4

**Least complex** I--------------I--------------I---------------I----------------I **Most complex**

Definition of Conventionality and Vocabulary: Texts that include language that is explicit, literal, straightforward, and generally familiar tend to be easier to read than texts that include figurative, nuanced, archaic or otherwise unfamiliar language or an abundance of domain-specific vocabulary.

1. Please determine the complexity of the excerpt’s ORGANIZATION and STRUCTURE. Indicate your answer by placing an X in the corresponding area of the scale.

Organization and structure:

0 1 2 3 4

**Least complex** I--------------I--------------I---------------I----------------I **Most complex**

Definition Organization and Structure:

Less Complex – Organization of text and connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear. Structure is chronological or easy to predict. Graphics, if used, directly support and assist in interpreting the written text. Text Features, if used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential to understanding.

More Complex – Organization of text is intricate with possible changes in narrative viewpoint, time shifts, multiple characters, and storylines or can be specialized for a particular discipline. Connections between an extensive range of ideas or events may be implicit or subtle. Graphics are varied and may provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text. Text Features, if used are essential in understanding content.

1. Please determine the complexity of the excerpt’s PURPOSE. Indicate your answer by placing an X in the corresponding area of the scale.

Purpose:

0 1 2 3 4

**Least complex** I--------------I--------------I---------------I----------------I **Most complex**

Definition of Purpose: Literary texts with a single level of meaning tend to be easier to comprehend than literary texts with multiple levels of meaning. Similarly, informational texts with an explicitly stated purpose are generally easier to comprehend than informational texts with an implicit, hidden, or obscure purpose.

1. Please determine the complexity of the excerpt’s INTERTEXTUALITY/CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE. Indicate your answer by placing an X in the corresponding area of the scale.

Intertextuality/cultural knowledge:

0 1 2 3 4

**Least complex** I--------------I--------------I---------------I----------------I **Most complex**

Definition of Intertextuality/Cultural knowledge: Texts that make few assumptions about the extent of prior knowledge and the depth of their cultural/literary and content/discipline knowledge are generally less complex than are texts that make many assumptions in one or more of those areas.

1. In the space provided, please write a few sentences explaining your rationale.

One of the main shifts of the Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy is to increase the emphasis on reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational. Text-dependent questions are questions that can only be answered by referring to evidence provided in the text. Text-specific question are also text-dependent, but address the unique text and no other by attending to its particular structure, language, concepts, ideas, and details.

The next series of items focuses on text-dependent and text-specific questions that a teacher may use based on the reading.

1. Suppose the questions below are used by teachers in a lesson about the excerpt. Please indicate if each one is Text-dependent or not.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Text-dependent | Not text-dependent | I don’t know |
| (a) Which sentence best states the main idea of “What’s a Midden?” |  |  |  |
| (b) Which details from the article best support the idea that archaeologists can learn  from people’s trash? |  |  |  |
|  | Text-dependent | Not Text-dependent | I don’t know |
| (c) Why is the study of archaeology important to our lives today? |  |  |  |
| (d) What might future archaeologists find in the midden of your life? |  |  |  |

1. Please indicate which of the following Text-Dependent questions is Text-specific, or not.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Text-specific | Not text-specific | I don’t know |
| (a) Which sentence best states the main idea of “What’s Midden?” |  |  |  |
| (b) Which details from the article best support the idea that archaeologists can learn  from people’s trash? |  |  |  |
| (c) Read the paragraph 3. Which point is the author supporting by including these  sentences in the article? |  |  |  |
| (d) What is the author’s tone of this article? |  |  |  |

1. Based on the excerpt, please indicate the sequence of the following questions in the order that you would use to guide students to the central idea and development of the text.
2. What is a midden?
3. What are some things archaeologists may find in the garbage piles of past civilizations?
4. Going through the article, what are words that you would need to define to understand the author better?
5. Reading the article, what are some conclusions that archaeologists can draw from midden?
6. What would be other things you would want to ask the author about midden?
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Mr. Jones, with the intent to focus the students on the main idea of the excerpt, asks his students, “What details support the idea that looking at old trash gives archaeologists useful knowledge?”

Tim answers, “When I throw away my lunch, that would let archaeologists know that I didn’t like it.”

What question would you ask *next* to help refocus Tim’s response to the text?

🔿 (a) “Where in the text is there support for your idea?”

🔿 (b) “What other information could your lunch tell archaeologists?”

🔿 (c) “Why is it important for archaeologists to know if people disliked or liked things?”

🔿 (d) “What information could a midden from our school tell archaeologists?”

🔿 (e) “What is the author’s tone of this article?”

🔿 (f) “Based on the article, do archaeologists learn about individuals or a people when studying a midden?”

1. Please provide a rationale for your answer below.

Mr. Jones is developing a lesson plan to go with the excerpt from “What’s a Midden?”. His objective is: *“Students will closely read a nonfiction text and use evidence to support understanding the central idea of the text.”*

The following questions focus on some aspects of his plan development.

1. How could Mr. Jones *best* meet the needs of students who read well above the grade level text band? *(Select one.)*

🔿 (a) Provide an additional text, *Digging Into the Past: Excavations in Ancient Lands,* by John Hackwell (reading level: middle school).

🔿 (b) Have students examine the text for content-specific vocabulary words.

🔿 (c) Have students write a short story about archaeologists.

🔿 (d) Group students for discussion by aptitude.

🔿 (e) I don’t know.

1. How could Mr. Jones *best* provide the appropriate scaffolds so that all students have opportunities to engage in the work of the lesson? *(Select one.)*

🔿 (a) He could rewrite the text and substitute more complex text and difficult vocabulary with easier words and phrases.

🔿 (b) He could create a podcast or audio recording of the passage for students to listen to while reading along.

🔿 (c) He could build background knowledge by providing a summary of the text.

🔿 (d) He could group students homogeneously and give the English Language Learners a simpler text on the same subject.

🔿 (e) I don’t know.

Mr. Jones is developing a series of lesson plans to go with the excerpt from “What’s a Midden?”. His objective is: *“Students will explore the field of archaeology.”*

1. How could Mr. Jones *best* prepare students to build knowledge about the concepts (e.g., archaeology, midden, civilization,) in the text? *(Select one.)*

🔿 (a) He could provide a series of additional texts and videos on the topic.

🔿 (b) He could have students write definitions for content-specific vocabulary words.

🔿 (c) He could have students write a short story.

🔿 (d) He could group students by aptitude for a discussion.

🔿 (e) I don’t know.

To improve his lesson, Mr. Jones decided to pair the excerpt from “What's a Midden?” with an additional text about archaeology and developed the following two-part ELA assignment for his students:

**Student Assignment**

**Part 1**:The left column lists some important ideas about archaeologists. One idea is found in both Article 1 and Article 2. One idea is found in Article 1 only, and one idea is found in Article 2 only. Indicate the correct columns below. One idea will not be used. Indicate in which article the ideas are found by placing an “X” in the appropriate column.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Important Ideas About Archaeologists** | **Both** | **Article 1** | **Article 2** |
| Archaeologists dig in the ground because old objects are found underground. |  |  |  |
| An archaeologist’s job is to learn about what things were like in the past. |  |  |  |
| An archaeologist has to work slowly and carefully so that clues are not damaged. |  |  |  |
| Archaeologists learn a lot about the past by digging in buried trash. |  |  |  |

**Part 2:** Based on the information in both articles, what steps would you take to do an archaeology dig at a spot where people might have lived in the past? Write an essay describing the process you would follow to learn about these people, using only the information in the articles. Be sure to include details from both articles.

There is a range of instructional practices teachers use every day; which ones are used is determined by the content and the students being taught.

Mr. Jones wants to know which instructional practices apply to his assignment.

1. Please indicate whether each of the following instructional practices applies or does not apply to Mr. Jones’ assignment.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Applies | Does not apply | Cannot tell from assignment | I don’t Know |
| (a) Targets a set of grade-level CCSS ELA/Literacy standards. |  |  |  |  |
| (b) Asks students to draw evidence from texts to produce clear and coherent  writing that informs, explains, or makes an argument in various written forms  ( e.g., notes, summaries, short responses, or formal essays). |  |  |  |  |
| (c) Provides for authentic learning, application of literacy skills, student-directed  inquiry, analysis, evaluation and/or reflection. |  |  |  |  |
| (d) Focuses on building students’ academic vocabulary in context. |  |  |  |  |
|  | Applies | Does not apply | Cannot tell from assignment | I don’t Know |
| (e) Addresses instructional expectations and is easy to understand and use. |  |  |  |  |
| (f) Provides all students with multiple opportunities to engage with text of appropriate complexity for the grade level; includes appropriate scaffolding so that students  directly experience the complexity of the text. |  |  |  |  |
| (g) Elicits direct, observable evidence of the degree to which a student can independently  demonstrate the major targeted grade-level CCSS standards with appropriately  complex text(s). |  |  |  |  |

1. Over the past school year, how frequently have you done the following?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Almost never/Never | Less than once a month | Several times a month | About weekly | Several times a week |
| (a) Read nonfiction text in the classroom |  |  |  |  |  |
| (b) Connected literacy instruction to other content (e.g., science, social studies) |  |  |  |  |  |
| (c) Sought texts from other content area teachers |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Over the past school year, how frequently have you done the following?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Almost never/Never | Less than once a month | Several times a month | About weekly | Several times a week |
| (a) Discussed Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy  with teachers in other grades |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Almost never/Never | Less than once a month | Several times a month | About weekly | Several times a week |
| (b) Discussed Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy  with teachers in your own grade |  |  |  |  |  |
| (c) Looked at student ELA/Literacy work with other teachers for the  purposes of professional development |  |  |  |  |  |
| (d) Received suggestions for the Common Core Standards for ELA/Literacy-aligned curricular materials from colleagues |  |  |  |  |  |

1. In the last year, how frequently have you used the following websites for free resources and information about the Common Core State Standards?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Almost never/Never | About once a month | Several times a month | About weekly | Several times a week |
| Teaching Channel |  |  |  |  |  |
| Teachers Pay Teachers |  |  |  |  |  |
| LearnZillion |  |  |  |  |  |
| Share My Lesson |  |  |  |  |  |
| BetterLesson |  |  |  |  |  |
| Achieve the Core |  |  |  |  |  |
| Khan Academy |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pinterest |  |  |  |  |  |
| My district education agency website |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other state or district education agency website |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |  |  |  |  |

Thank you very much for the time and thought you have put into completing this survey.

For more information about the organization conducting this research,

Student Achievement Partners,

visit [www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org).