

December 2018

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Response to EdReports Evaluation
***Literacy by Design* Grades K-5**

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on EdReports' review of *Literacy by Design K-5*. While we are confident that the efficacy of *Literacy by Design* speaks for itself, we are also aware that opinions may vary. Allow us to shed new light on a few criteria that Houghton Mifflin Harcourt stands behind wholeheartedly but that EdReports has reviewed with mixed favorability.

Originally published in 2007, *Literacy by Design* was updated in 2013 to ensure alignment with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. As a comprehensive solution, *Literacy by Design* ©2013 offers teachers a wealth of instructional tools and supports in both print and digital, including:

- A rich, multi-genre collection of literature and other selections designed to provide a supportive context for modeling and skill application in whole group
- A focus on building literacy through content with a mix of inquiry-based themes connecting to grade-level science and social studies topics
- A discourse-based approach to development that emphasizes responding to texts and ideas across a range of multi-modal tasks—including traditional comprehension questions, open-ended response, metacognitive reflection, collaborative partner activities, oral response, and response writing
- A dual pathway of acceleration, with a whole-group scope and sequence that ensures coverage of all core skills and a coordinated set of small-group tools that allows teachers to respond effectively to the needs of all students
- A broad continuum of leveled texts across all major genres, complete with developmentally aligned lessons that build skills in comprehension and literary analysis as well as skill organizers that promote the ongoing reinforcement of applicable whole-group concepts across new contexts in guided and independent reading
- A completely revised writing plan that includes sixteen formal writing projects per grade, each supported by a rigorous 10-day sequence that moves through all five steps of the writing process plus contextualized instruction in a focus trait, an organizational pattern, and relevant grammar skills
- A variety of flexible-use ancillary resources and recommended readings designed to empower teachers with options for adding depth to instruction
- An online correlation that provides multiple linked resources to each Common Core State Standard in English Language Arts
- Additional lessons for key concepts, including forming and supporting opinions as well as comparing ideas across multiple texts

HMH respects and supports EdReports.org's goal of providing educators with a comprehensive understanding of Common Core State Standards alignment across the academic materials their districts are considering for adoption. We hope that educators will fully consider the information provided here regarding *Literacy by Design*.