NISD Language Arts Resources for the Classroom

The Comprehension Toolkit

Year Provided: 2005-present  
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators  
Use: Two per grade level provided.  
Grades 3-6  
Publisher: Heinemann  
Description:  
The Comprehension Toolkit focuses on reading, writing, talking, listening, and investigating, to deepen understanding of nonfiction texts. With a focus on strategic thinking, Toolkit’s lessons provide a foundation for developing independent readers and learners.

The teaching and learning focus in The Comprehension Toolkit is on comprehension instruction, including:

- monitoring comprehension  
- activating and connecting to background knowledge  
- asking questions  
- inferring meaning  
- determining importance  
- summarizing and synthesizing

Toolkit Texts

Year Provided: 2007-present  
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators  
Use: One per grade level provided.  
Grades 2-7  
Publisher: Heinemann  
Description:  
In response to the overwhelming demand for more high-quality, age-appropriate nonfiction texts, Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis have developed the three volume series Toolkit Texts: Short Nonfiction for Guided and Independent Practice. With articles personally selected and edited by Harvey and Goudvis, these volumes are designed to provide supplementary texts that are precisely matched to the strategies described and supported in The Comprehension Toolkit. The articles focus on high-interest topics that engage students and help build strong readers while also building background knowledge in numerous content areas.

- The articles also give students an opportunity to read and process the kinds of passages typically found on state tests.  
- The articles present information in a range of formats typical of nonfiction texts including time lines, sidebars, interviews, and maps and diagrams  
- The front matter for each book provides the needed professional support for the teacher to be successful combining the articles with his/her work with the Comprehension Toolkit.
Year Provided: 2008-present  
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators  
Use: Two per grade level provided.  
Grades K-2  
Publisher: Heinemann  
Description:  
*The Comprehension Toolkit* focuses on reading, writing, talking, listening, and investigating, to deepen understanding of nonfiction texts. With a focus on strategic thinking, Toolkit’s lessons provide a foundation for developing independent readers and learners.  
The teaching and learning focus in *The Comprehension Toolkit* is on comprehension instruction, including:  
- monitoring comprehension  
- activating and connecting to background knowledge  
- asking questions  
- inferring meaning  
- determining importance  
- summarizing and synthesizing  

The Primary Comprehension Toolkit

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Year Provided: 2008-present  
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators  
Use: Two per grade level provided.  
Grades K-2  
Publisher: Heinemann  
Description:  
*Units of Study for Primary Writing* provides easy access to the magic of Lucy and her colleagues teaching by presenting minute-by-minute, live-from-the-classroom coaching as they show you how to craft a yearlong writing curriculum for primary students. Presented sequentially, these units take your children from oral and pictorial storytelling through emergent and into fluent writing.  

Calkins Units of Study Bundle  
*Color of cover may vary depending on grade level*
Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5

*Color of cover may vary depending on grade level

Year Provided: 2008-present
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators
Use: Two per grade level provided.
Grades 3-5
Publisher: Heinemann
Description: Building on the teaching and instructional features in Units of Study for Primary Writing, Lucy Calkins and her colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project extend their writing curriculum to the upper-elementary grades with Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5. Offering a whole new set of units, this series places and added emphasis on mechanics, assessment, and collaborating with colleagues. Units of Study for Teaching Writing.

Interactive Read-Alouds

*Color of cover may vary depending on grade level

Year Provided: 2008-present
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators
Use: Two per grade level provided.
Grades K-3
Publisher: Heinemann – First Hand
Description: Read-aloud time is much treasured in most elementary classrooms as teachers share children’s classics with their young readers. Linda Hoyt’s Interactive Read-Alouds will help you make the most of read-aloud time by showing you creative ways to use popular children’s literature to teach standards, fluency, and comprehension. Combining award-winning text and engaging conversations with reflective thinking, Linda’s lessons will add drama to your literacy block and will teach your young readers strategies they will use across the curriculum.
Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2)

Year Provided: 2006-present
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators
Use: Two per grade level provided. Grades K-3
Publisher: Pearson Learning
Description: The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) is a quick, accurate, research-based assessment that helps you target instruction for student success. Research based, with demonstrated reliability and validity, the Developmental Reading Assessment, Second Edition (DRA2), K-8 helps students become independent successful readers by giving educators the right mix of tools needed to assess accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. DRA2 helps educators identify each student's reading ability, document progress, and tailor teaching to drive effective reading instruction.

- Delivers reliable, validated assessment with research-based, field-tested materials.
- Assesses student reading performance within a literature-based reading program incorporating both fiction and nonfiction.
- Helps you set individual instructional goals and document students' performance over time.
- Enables you to match readers to appropriate reading levels and books.
Year Provided:
Distributed by: L.A. Coordinators
Use: for every classroom teacher
Grades K-2
Publisher: Heinemann – First Hand

Description:
Each book is a complete Phonics and Word Study Curriculum for each of the primary grades. With 100 Mini lessons for each of the three grade levels. You can use the month-by-month planning guide, the assessment checklists, and the lesson selection map to choose the lessons that align with your students’ needs and the Word Study Continuum. The Continuum encompasses nine scientific categories of learning: (with CD Rom)

- Early Literacy Concepts
- High-Frequency Words
- Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
- Spelling Patterns
- Letter Knowledge
- Word Structure
- Letter/Sound Relationships
- Word-Solving Actions
- Word Meaning
The Qualitative Reading Inventory-5 has long led the field in offering students and teachers alike a reliable and easy-to-use informal assessment instrument. This Fifth Edition continues to emphasize authentic assessment of children’s reading abilities, from the most emergent readers to advanced readers.

One of the keys to the success of the QRI-5 is that it contains narrative and expository passages at each pre-primer through high school level. All are self-contained selections highly representative of the structure and topic of materials found in basal readers and content-area textbooks. This new edition includes new narrative texts that are even easier than the pre-primer passages previously included. At the same time, it provides graded word lists and numerous passages designed to assess the oral reading, silent reading, or listening comprehension of a student as well as questions to assess prior knowledge. Instructors can measure comprehension by retelling passages, using implicit and explicit questions, and using other devices.

Although the QRI-5 remains an informal assessment instrument, highly respected scholars and researchers Lauren Leslie and JoAnne Caldwell conducted an extensive piloting of the new materials with approximately 168 first and second grade students. This comprehensive inventory is designed for students in graduate education courses, reading specialists, and school district personnel who offer in-service work in reading assessment or who are involved in designing assessment procedures for a school or district. Whereas the administration of standardized tests remains identical across all students, the QRI-5 provides a number of diagnostic options that serve a variety of purposes, including identifying reading levels to match students to appropriate materials, verifying a suspected reading problem, determining reader strengths and needs, and suggesting directions for intervention instruction.
The Foundations Studies are a series of lessons that assist teachers in setting up the rituals and routines of the Readers and Writers Workshops. The students are led through a series of learning experiences, from simple to more complex. The lessons use a variety of modeling and think-aloud demonstrations to teach appropriate reading and writing skills and strategies. This guides students to develop in the skills of writing, reading, reflecting and problem-solving. Students eventually will work towards “publishing” and celebrate their work.