

## **Books4U 2014 – Common Core Common Core Materials Selection Criteria**

For your convenience, we are attaching here a list of more than 400 fiction and nonfiction titles that have been recommended by one or more librarians and/or educators who are experts on the Common Core. The list includes publisher, publication date, general subject, reading levels, and lexile level, which is a number that attempts to match a student’s reading ability to the difficulty of a text. You are not required to select materials specifically from this list. However, the designated vendors have already confirmed that they have multiple copies of these titles available for purchase.

When selecting books to support Common Core homework assignments, please keep the following criteria in mind:

- ***Complexity***—the new standards require that students comprehend increasingly complex and sophisticated texts as they move through school, so please focus on works that challenge kids to think;
- ***Text structure***—students are required to read and compare works that are structured in various ways (e.g., chronologically vs. by topic, etc.), so look for alternative approaches to topics;
- ***Multiple perspectives***—students are also required to address topics from differing perspectives, therefore select titles that either present a range of arguments or contrast other works in the collection;
- ***Strong narrative***—students are required to read and digest much more nonfiction than before, so the content should be well written, engaging, thought-provoking, and significant;
- ***Evidence-based***—students are required to cite evidence and so the author’s arguments should be accurate, relevant, and based on research, as evidenced by endnotes, bibliographies, appendices, and supporting graphic images; and
- ***Primary sources***—students are required to consult primary sources and texts of “recognized value,” so select works of historical significance, classics, or contemporary works of literary merit, cultural significance, or rich content.

Because no textbooks have been published yet to support the Common Core, teachers are pulling together their own materials to create “text sets”—that is, collections of related materials organized around a particular topic or line of inquiry. We, therefore, highly recommend that staff work with local schools for guidance on which topics to emphasize when purchasing materials to support the Common Core.

You are encouraged to buy multiple copies of titles, as appropriate, as well as duplicate copies of relevant materials already in your collection. Purchasing books to create “text sets” is also recommended. (See Marc Aronson’s “Guide to Creating Text Sets for Grades 2-12” at <http://bayviews.org/institute/2014handoutTextSetsGuide.pdf>.)

For more tips on how to develop your collection to meet Common Core demands, we suggest that staff watch Infopeople's archived webinar "Public Libraries and the Common Core Curriculum: Resources," conducted by former children's librarian Kathleen Odean, available at <https://infopeople.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=235>. We are also attaching a resource list with further collection development recommendations.

By mid-April, we will provide each public library jurisdiction a copy of *Understanding Common Core State Standards* by John Kendall (ASCD, 2011) to help you and your staff better comprehend the new standards. In the meantime, please feel free to contact library programs consultant Cindy Mediavilla at [Cindy.Mediavilla@library.ca.gov](mailto:Cindy.Mediavilla@library.ca.gov) or 310/915-8588, if you have questions about Common Core.