



Alan Sitomer's Common Core Tip Sheet: *7 Tips and 7 Resources*

7 Points to Keep in Mind about Common Core:

1. Literacy is now the responsibility of every teacher in the school (i.e. not just the ELA educator) because cross-curricular literacy is lynchpin to Common Core success.
2. Students will be asked to read MUCH more voluminously, both in school and out. There are no shortcuts to elevating student skill sets that can circumvent this truth. (i.e. Beware magic pills promising quick fixes.)
3. Fiction is not being thrown under the bus but more high-quality nonfiction in a host of genres such as excerpted texts, exemplary speeches, and other pieces of primary source informational text that are not generic textbooks or watered-down generic nonfiction books, will be needed. (And remember, our students will need to probe more deeply into these rich texts and view issues through multiple and nuanced perspectives.)
4. More and more teachers are turning away from generic textbooks and moving to trade books. (Hallelujah!)
5. The Common Core does not define literacy as just being able to read and write, but as being able to produce information as well as to consume it. Therefore, can you extend opportunities for students to be generative somehow? (i.e. writing, listening, speaking, multi-media projects aligned with Common Core academic objectives and so on.)
6. Being that literacy is the responsibility of every teacher in the school, librarians have a vital Common Core role. (Yet they are - not ironically - being moronically devalued by school districts, politicians and other fools of short-sighted ilk.) Continue to support and empower our library friends! Eventually, this sleeping giant will be one day awakened.
7. Appendix B is **not** a mandated reading list!

7 Resources that Might be Helpful:

1. Understanding Common Core's Triangle of Text Complexity
<https://vimeo.com/63691919>
2. Publishers Weekly Common Core Toolkit
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/digital/retailing/article/58986-the-common-core-toolkit-september-2013.html>
3. Dispelling Common Core Myths About Informational vs Literary Texts in a Properly Aligned Classroom <https://vimeo.com/66096840>
4. Edutopia's Resources for Common Core <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/common-core-ela-resources-elementary-matt-davis>
5. America Achieve's Common Core Website <http://commoncore.americaachieves.org>
6. EngageNY has a solid Common Core website <http://www.engageny.org>
7. ASCD and Common Core State Standards Resources <http://www.ascd.org/common-core-state-standards/common-core.aspx>