



With Rigor for All, Second Edition: Meeting Common Core Standards for Reading Literature

By Carol Jago

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"The stakes are high. Without artful instruction, many students will never acquire the literacy skills they need not only to meet Common Core Standards but also to meet the challenges this brave new world is sure to deal them."

Carol Jago

Again and again the Common Core Standards state that students must read "proficiently and independently" but how do we achieve this when students are groaning about having to read demanding literature and looking for ways to pass the class without turning pages?

Carol Jago shows middle and high school teachers how to create English classrooms where students care about living literate lives and develop into proficient independent readers. With 50% new material, *With Rigor for All, Second Edition* features:

- integration of the **Common Core State Standards** as teaching touchstones
- **YA lit pairings** with classic texts to aid comprehension **for middle and high school** students
- tips to motivate **reluctant readers** with immersion, encouragement, and small steps
- a study guide and guidelines for **curriculum development**.

Students need books that mirror their own experiences and if you teach literature that you love, your students will be more likely to love it too. Let Carol show you how to create an individually designed curriculum in which students read literary works of comparable quality, complexity, and range and enjoy doing it!

CUSTOMER QUESTIONS:

Question 1: In chapter 7 you discussed testing that teaches (also one of my favorite chapters!) You gave me some great, realistic ideas for assessment. What advice would you give to teachers that feel they must "teach to the test?" Some

teachers feel if they don't assess the way their students are assessed on state exams they are not adequately preparing them. What would you say to those teachers?

Teaching to the test is a waste of time. Long term, it doesn't "take." The new Common Core assessments are going to include performance tasks that will require students to read and write extensively. I'm hoping this will help send the message that preparing students for the occasional high stakes moments is best accomplished by teaching them authentically to read and write well. And don't forget listening and speaking! If I were in charge of the world, every child would participate regularly in Socratic seminars -- critical thinking about critical texts, K-12.

Question 2: What do you think is the most important thing for teachers to understand or embrace as they move forward with implementing the Common Core State Standards?

The most important thing for teachers to understand about the Common Core is that it is a clarion call to accelerate learning in our classrooms. More is more when it comes to reading and writing. At the moment there is still too much filling out of worksheets going on in classrooms. Just calling the page a "graphic organizer" doesn't make it less of a fill-in-the-blanks task.

How to include nonfiction along with literature? Have students read twice as much over the course of the year (easier said than done, I know!)

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Carol Jago has taught English in middle and high school for 32 years, is immediate past president of the National Council of Teachers of English, and serves as an associate director of the California Reading and Literature Project at UCLA. Carol served as AP Literature content advisor for the College Board and has published six books for teachers with Heinemann. She has also published four books on contemporary multicultural authors for NCTE's High School Literature series. Carol has written a weekly education column for the Los Angeles Times, and her essays have appeared in English Journal, Language Arts, NEA Today, as well as in other newspapers across the nation. She edits the journal of the California Association of Teachers of English, California English, and served on the planning committee for the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework and the 2011 NAEP Writing Framework. » Listen to an interview with Carol Jago on Education Talk Radio - 2/23/2012 (34:20)

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