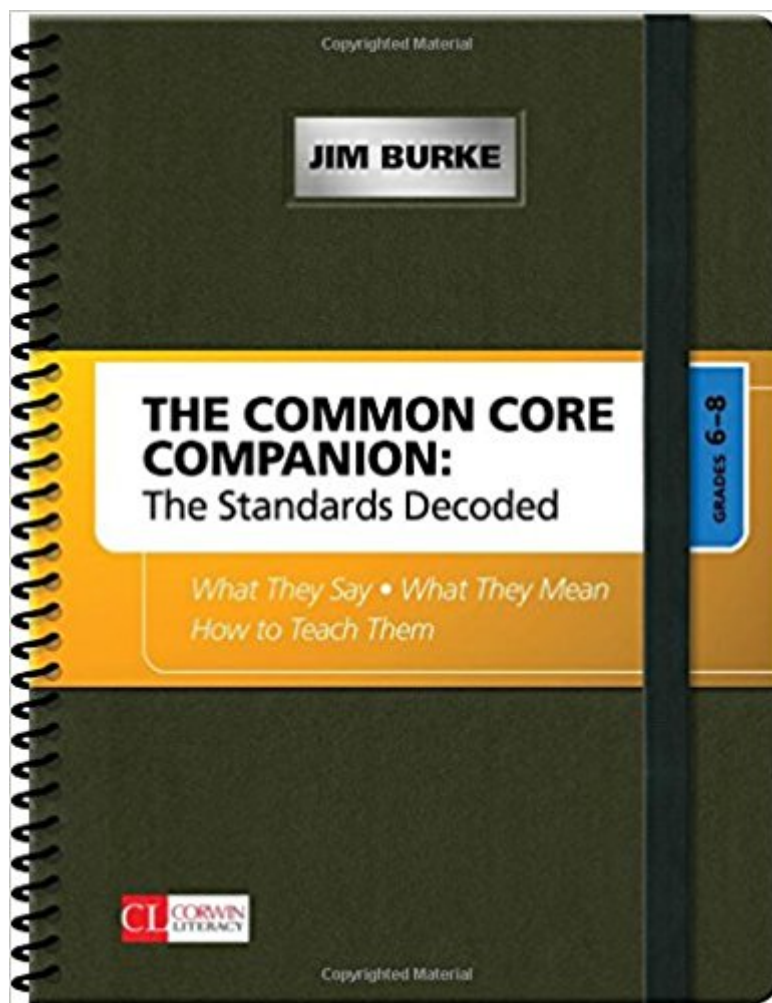


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# The Common Core Companion: The Standards Decoded, Grades 6-8: What They Say, What They Mean, How To Teach Them (Corwin Literacy)



## Synopsis

I love what Jim Burke has done to make the Standards less threatening and more useful for teachers. In particular, the indicators for what students and teachers should be doing, given the Standard, are extremely helpful; as are such a clear glossary and illuminating examples. All in all, The Common Core Companion is bound to be enormously useful and thus dog-eared!

— Grant Wiggins, President, Authentic Education, Hopewell, NJ

That version of the 6-8 standards you wish you had Don't spend another minute poring over the standards. Jim Burke has already done the hard work for you with this roadmap of what each standard says, what each standard means, and how precisely to put that standard into practice across English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. Jim clearly lays out:

- Grades 6-8 standards side by side with key distinctions
- Different content-area versions of each standard
- Explanations of each standard, with student prompts
- Content to cover, lesson ideas, and instructional techniques
- Glossary and adaptations for ELL students

A longtime English teacher, Jim Burke is the author of more than 20 books and senior consultant for the Holt McDougal Literature program. Jim has received several awards, including the 2000 NCTE Exemplary English Leadership Award. In 2009, he created the English Companion Ning—the largest online community of English teachers in the world. More recently, Jim has served on the AP English Course and Exam Review Commission and the PARCC Consortium.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Save your money. Just takes the standards and elaborates on the language, which is not difficult. No ideas or suggestions for implementation. Not a fan.

This book is so beautiful and nice to look at. Unfortunately, if you have been to the Common Core website and sorted through what is there, you already know most of this. If you delete all of the content that is just copied from the Common Core website, you would have a 20 page book. This is good for teachers who are too lazy to read the standards or just want some questions that align to the standards to ask their students. There are no actual lessons or resources here. Even the book list is actually the exact same one that Common Core gives in the appendices. We have to read it, because my school bought it, but there are other choices that you can go to as a middle school reading teacher. If you have a chance to look inside the book before you buy it, do it! You can see for yourself what you are getting.

Would have been nice if had made it clear that this book does not cover math at all. Now I get to go through the pleasure of returning it.

Our district adopted the CCS last year. While non-core subjects like mine (Art) were expected to implement them, nobody could say just HOW TO DO THIS! During training our instructors would ask "...what do you think the standards mean and how will you apply them in your classroom? WELL, have you seen the list of these standards?! Slogging through all of that and dealing with our own standards at the same time about put me over the edge. I eventually grasped a better understanding, but wish I had this book LAST YEAR! This book puts all of the academic verbosity into perspective and lays it out in terms that even an oldish teacher like me can understand and incorporate. It also has great sections of academic vocab aligned to the standard and practical ways to implement them plus- BONUS TIME a monthly planner so you can prove to the world just how CCS savvy you are! I recommend it to any teacher who is tired of hearing gobbledy gook and needs some straightforward useful answers about the COMMON CORE. Anyway, I have to go. I am PROCRASTINATING writing my CCS lesson plan.

As a non-core subject teacher I was a little in the dark about how to apply the standards in my class.

Hearing that ANY text (which includes art pieces as well as photography and technology) can be used during close reading or analysis opened my eyes to the possibilities. As a teacher in a small rural district, I wasn't receiving the training I needed until our administrator supplied us all with this book. I highly recommend it to teachers who are struggling alone to implement the standards.

One of the best sources for unpacking the standards. For each standard it spells out what the student should be able to do, what questions should be asked and answered. Very clear guidelines for what teachers can do to work in each standard. Love the question stems. Great for all content areas and has the social study and science/tech standards directly addressed. I am a literacy coach and this was a great resource to share with teachers--easiest I have found.

Nearly all of the language arts teachers in my building are using this book as a planning resources. Really breaks down the standards and how to approach them with the students. Some of the methods seem a little out of order for what I would use as logical steps, but that's a condition of my teaching style and I have easily organized those steps in the way I would teach them. My only complaint - this book desperately needs tabbed sections! All of us who use it has it filled with post-it flags to separate the sections.

I bought this to help me with curriculum planning as well as for during our vertical articulation meetings. It's helpful to see the difference in expectations between the grade levels. It has also helped when planning with other content areas when they're looking for ways to support ELA in their classrooms.

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