

CALIFORNIA JOURNEYS

CALIFORNIA TK-5 ELA/ELD

Open Letter to Elementary Teachers

Creating Readers and Writers

The California ELA/ELD Framework describes a curriculum that prepares children from the earliest grades for college, career, and civic life. To make this goal a reality, teachers and students need instructional materials that not only meet the state's guidelines but also—and even more importantly—inspire learning and engagement.

California Journeys from **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt™** was created in this spirit. The program provides guidelines and materials for teaching children to read and write, but that is only the beginning. We brought together the kinds of texts that we believe will make students want to read and the kinds of tasks that will make them keen to pick up a pencil and reach for that keyboard.

California Journeys is designed to help teachers make the instructional shifts that are at the heart of the Common Core:

- Building background knowledge through content-rich nonfiction
- Evidence-based reading and writing
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary

Every lesson is a step in the journey children are making towards authentic literacy. We want students to approach text in new ways, examining a text carefully, discussing the author's craft, and using evidence to express their own opinions. The more children embrace learning, the more adept they become at navigating challenging texts and pursuing their own avenues of inquiry through research and writing.

At every step **California Journeys** provides integrated scaffolding for English learners, allowing children to practice their emerging literacy skills using state-of-the-art digital resources and print components that come to life in their hands.

Education isn't something we do to children. It's a journey we invite them to take with us.

Sincerely,

Carol Jago



Carol Jago
Program Author



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