

Carnegie Learning Publisher Response to Texas Resource Review
Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature, Grades 6-8

Program Overview

Carnegie Learning's Grades 6-8 *Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature* program presents a rigorous and balanced program in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This comprehensive 6-12 language arts program provides extensive and varied preparation opportunities and materials and has been approved by the Texas State Adoption panel for 100% alignment with TEKS and ELPS standards for English Language Arts. The *Mirrors & Windows* program is designed to encourage students to be excellent communicators and lifelong learners.

Mirrors & Windows presents a diverse variety of literature to help students reflect on themselves and their world and to connect that understanding to other cultures and time periods. Using a scaffolded approach, *Mirrors & Windows* provides instruction in essential content and skills and then transfers responsibility for learning to the student. The gradual release of responsibility framework is applied within each unit and across the grades. This approach is based on research that supports the practice of modeling, practicing, and applying reading skills. Three levels of reading support are provided to gradually transfer responsibility from the teacher and the textbook to the student. The reading support throughout the unit progresses from guided to directed to independent reading. This approach ensures that students will master college and career readiness skills and become successful independent learners.

Mirrors and Windows' innovative digital learning technology tools and twenty-first century skills incorporated throughout the program engage students and enhance instruction. All *Mirrors & Windows* program resources for all grades are accessible through Carnegie Learning's Passport™ online learning environment.

Response to Texas Resource Review Committee Findings

We appreciate the thorough review of the Texas Resource Committee and the outstanding ratings for *Mirrors & Windows* in all areas. We would like to provide a response for the one indicator in Section 5 for which we were not given the full score.

Indicator 5.3

Materials include supports for English Learners (EL) to meet grade-level learning expectations.

- Materials must include accommodations for linguistics (communicated, sequenced, and scaffolded) commensurate with various levels of English language proficiency as defined by the ELPs.
- Materials provide scaffolds such as adapted text, translations, native language support, cognates, summaries, pictures, realia, glossaries, bilingual dictionaries, thesauri, and other modes of comprehensible input.
- Materials encourage strategic use of students' first language as a means to linguistic, affective, cognitive, and academic development in English (e.g., to enhance vocabulary development).
- Vocabulary is developed in the context of connected discourse.

On this indicator, *Mirrors & Windows* received a rating of Partially Meets 1/2.

There appears to have been some misunderstanding regarding the *Differentiated Instruction: English Language Learner* supports in the *Mirrors & Windows* Teacher’s Edition. The committee noted:

In the “Teacher Edition,” English learners’ supports are labeled “Differentiated Instruction—English Language Learners.” The margins of the Teacher’s Edition include activities for “Advanced High” English learners. Activities for ELs who are “Beginner,” “Intermediate,” or “Advanced” can be found in in Differentiated Instruction—English Language Learning.

The statement that the activities found in the margins of the Teacher’s Edition are for “Advanced High” English Language Learners could be misinterpreted. Support for all ELL proficiency levels, *including* Advanced High, are provided in the Teacher’s Edition margins for all selections. See examples below:

Mirrors & Windows Grade 6

Unit 1			
The Goodness of Matt Kaiser, p. 22	Beginning/Emerging	Slang	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 27
The Circuit, p. 38	Intermediate Expanding	Assimilation Activity	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 39
The All American Slurp, p. 52	Advanced/Bridging	Ordering from a Menu	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 54
All Summer in a Day, p. E6	Advanced High	Figures of Speech	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. E7

Mirrors & Windows Grade 7

Unit 1			
After Twenty Years, p. 7	Beginning/Emerging	Idioms	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 10
The War of the Wall, p. 59	Intermediate Expanding	Dialect	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 66
Uncle Tony’s goat, p. E25	Advanced/Bridging	Point of View	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. E27
The Inn of Lost Time, p. 26	Advanced High	Subject/Verb Agreement	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 44

Mirrors & Windows Grade 8

Unit 1			
The Treasure of Lemon Brown, p. 16	Beginning/Emerging	Dialect and Idioms	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 18
Charles, p. 7	Intermediate/Expanding	Dialogue and Sentence Fragments	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 9
Checkouts, p. E14	Advanced/Bridging	Figurative Language	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. E17
Writing Workshop, p. 64	Advanced/High	Connotations	Differentiated Instruction: ELL, TE p. 69

Additional support for Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced ELL proficiency levels is provided in the *Differentiated Instruction: English Language Learning Support* ancillary as noted by the committee and shown above. See the Scope & Sequence in the *Differentiated Instruction: English Language Learning Support* Teacher's Edition, pp. x-xi.

The online version of the *Differentiated Instruction: English Language Support* ancillary also includes selection summaries translated into Spanish with audio, as well as a Literary Terms Handbook in English and Spanish.

Mirrors & Windows Grades 6-8 has been approved by the Texas State Adoption review panel as fully meeting 100% of Texas English Language Proficiency Standards.

Carnegie Learning would like to thank the Texas Resource Review committee for joining us in our shared commitment to provide the best learning solutions for all learners.