

Closing the Circle: A Practical Guide to Implementing Literacy Reform, K-12

By Sean A. Walmsley

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In *Closing the Circle*, Sean Walmsley offers education practitioners at all levels—district and school administrators, curriculum supervisors, staff developers, literacy coaches, classroom teachers, and special education teachers—a coherent framework along with practical advice for setting K–12 language arts expectations and for effectively guiding instruction, assessment, reporting, and data analysis. Distilled from the author's extensive experience working with schools and districts, the framework enables educators to prioritize literacy learning and work together more productively to achieve better literacy outcomes for all students.

The innovative framework includes five major elements: (1) a set of clearly defined *literacy attributes* (concise expectations for what students should know, do, understand, and experience in the language arts); (2) instructional contributions that best support students, including struggling learners, in acquiring the attributes; (3) appropriate assessments for tracking students' progress; (4) reporting practices that clearly explain the progress achieved; and (5) rigorous analysis of data to inform instruction. The model embraces a broad conception of literacy and includes expectations for reading, writing, listening, and speaking as well as *viewing* and *representing*, making it especially suitable for learning in the digital era.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

Closing The Circle

Preparing students to meet the literacy challenges of the future is one of the most important goals of education today. This book addresses three major questions: What do we mean by "literacy"? How can it best be addressed by K–12 schooling? And what does it take to get there?

In Closing the Circle, Sean Walmsley offers educational practitioners at all levels—district and school administrators, curriculum supervisors, staff developers, literacy coaches, classroom teachers, and special education teachers—a coherent framework along with practical advice for setting K–12 language arts expectations and for effectively guiding instruction, assessment, reporting, and data analysis. Distilled from the author's extensive experience working with schools and districts, the framework enables educators to prioritize literacy learning and work together more productively to achieve better literacy outcomes for all students.

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Closing the Circle provides concrete guidance for schools and districts interested in implementing all or parts of the framework, which is flexible and adaptable to varied school settings and philosophies. It also provides examples from schools that have implemented the model, including sample report cards.

From the Back Cover

Praise for Closing The Circle

"Sean Walmsley has written a K–12 framework for literacy learning that articulates the missing big picture and provides a new way to look at the teaching of English Language Arts. This text is a must-read for district administrators, curriculum leaders, teachers, and parents who want to revolutionize the current state of literacy instruction."
—Cathleen Kral

Instructional Leader for Literacy, Boston Public Schools

"Walmsley's attributes framework for language arts is brilliant in its simplicity. The book is rich with practical ideas based in a framework that makes sense of language arts instruction. It will help educators look beyond a skills approach to the wider and broader view of literacy."
—Susan Lenski

professor of education, Portland State University

"Walmsley provides a powerful framework for thinking about the literacy lessons offered in every school. In this new book he takes the reader on a journey that will have you changing your literacy lessons. He carefully discusses his comprehensive literacy instruction and assessment tools, and the next thing you notice is that you are wondering. Wondering about the adequacy of the lessons and the assessments. Wondering why this has not occurred to you before."
—Richard Allington

professor of education, University of Tennesee and

past president, International Reading Association

"Dr. Walmsley's literacy framework serves to focus curriculum development, enrich professional conversations and provides a comprehensive lens with which to examine, assess, and support learners and their unique interaction with all forms of receptive and expressive language. I highly recommend this book to administrators and practitioners alike as a highly usable and important tool for pursuing a systemic approach to literacy development."
—Louis N. Wool

superintendent of schools, Harrison Central School District,Harrison, New York

About the Author

Sean A. Walmsley is professor and chair of the Reading Department, State University of New York at Albany. A former teacher, he has published numerous articles in professional journals, written several books related to language arts, and is co-editor (with Richard Allington) of No Quick Fix: Rethinking Literacy Programs in America's Elementary Schools. He works with schools and districts nationally in implementing literacy and language arts reforms.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Hendrix:

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