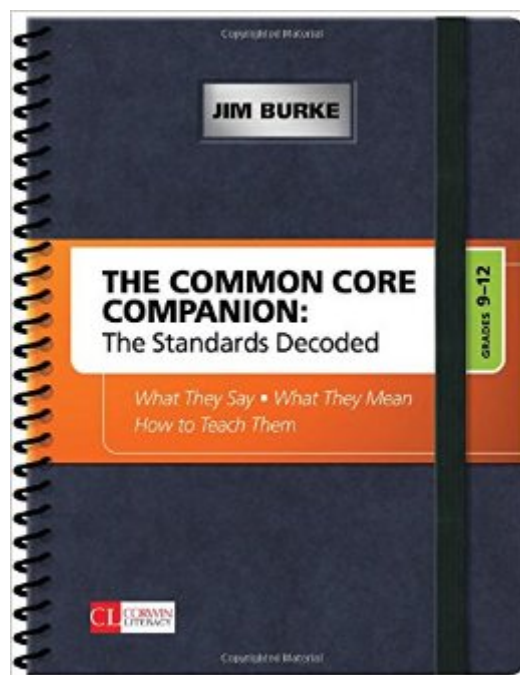


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# The Common Core Companion: The Standards Decoded, Grades 9-12: What They Say, What They Mean, How To Teach Them (Corwin Literacy)



## 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! • -Â Grant Wiggins, President, Authentic Education, Hopewell, NJ That version of the 9-12 standards you wish you had If you're a high school teacher, no need to despair. Jim Burke has created a Common Core Companion for you, too. This time positioning the grades 9-10 standards alongside 11-12, it's every bit the roadmap to what each standard says, what each standard means, and how to put that standard into practice across subjects. Jim clearly lays out: Key distinctions across grade levels 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 Ningâ 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

I didn't find this book to be as useful as I'd hoped. I already have a copy of the Common Core Standards - and this book really didn't do much more than repeat them and "interpret" ways to assess the different standards - I feel confident in how to assess the standards -- I'd hoped for more specific ways to implement the standards into specific lessons. I am able to read and comprehend the basic meaning of the standards without a book to interpret them for me.

This is an excellent book for English, history, and other content area teachers. Jim Burke takes the Common Core standards and breaks them down into their essential elements. For each standard, he gives a brief statement about what the standard actually asks the students to do, and he then lists a bullet point breakdown by grade level (9-10, 11-12) for 4 categories: 1. Literature, 2. Informational text, 3. History/social science, and 4. Science/technical subjects. In addition, the very usable format uses the page facing each standard to give lesson ideas for each key element of the standard. And, the final comment on each standard is labeled, "To help your English Language Learners, try this..." As a 20+ year veteran high school teacher, I find this book the most practical and usable of any of the Common Core publications I've examined. It's helping me connect the language of the CCSS to the teaching I do already. I'm also using it to adapt my teaching in the way CCSS vary from previous standards. I also like the cross-over in which the author demonstrates how the "English" standards are really the language of all content area subjects, giving all teachers information and lesson ideas. Caveat: although the title does not specify, this book does NOT cover math standards. This makes me a little sad for math teachers, but only because this is such an excellent book that I hope an equivalent is published for them.

I don't think I am overstating the significance of Jim Burke's book when I say that it has acted as the starting gun for teachers to thoughtfully and confidently start implementing the Common Core. There have been so many questions about what the new standards mean for teachers of subjects beyond English and Math and Burke answers those questions perfectly. Essentially, we are all in the Common Core together and Burke lays out how each of us might implement the standards in a way that is clear and immediately useful. The book not only breaks down the Common Core Standards, it provides a practical guide for "what students do", "what teachers do" and what the "gist" of each standard is. Brilliant. Burke lays out what the standards mean for English, Social

Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects making it clear how they are all connected and how each has a shared responsibility. Each of the standards is broken down, clearly defined and practical applications are provided for each reading and writing standard. Additionally, Burke includes suggestions for how to help English Language Learners with these reading and writing based standards. Let me just say that our Social Studies department has been carrying the book around with us for the past two weeks and talking about it daily. If you teach, you need this book.

If I ever host another student teacher again, this is the book that I would make sure to require them to use for their lesson planning verbiage. Overall, this contains great ideas, and has all core subjects making the cross curricular approaches a bit more manageable. I will get great use from this book. UPDATE: 3/19/2015 I just ordered this again. the woman that I share my classroom with loved this book so much that I gave her mine and then ordered a new one for myself. Yes. It was worth buying twice. Yes. It was worth sharing. I do wish the price tag was a bit lower, but this book is really worth it. :)

I've been to countless "in-services" and numerous presentations about the Common Core - all of which left me empty of understanding about how to proceed with the common core. Thankfully, Mr. Burke has come to the rescue with this book, and none-too-soon. When it arrived, I opened it, and immediately began to devour its contents. Now, I am enlightened, not "in the dark," and I can confidentially plan for the core's implementation. Endless thanks, again, Jim!

This is my second year teaching with Common Core. I bought this book this year to give me some extra help explaining my objectives in my lesson plans. Now I can't create lesson plans without this book by my side. I've recommended it to all my colleagues! Great purchase!

My only regret is that Jim Burke did not write the Common Core Standards. They would surely be much better, written in plain English, and informed from a real teacher's perspective. This book is the next best thing. Thanks for this translation, Jim. It will help teachers realize that bland lists of behaviorist expectations can be turned into meaningful lessons.

If you are a teacher of 9-12 grade ELA or Social Studies, then this Common Core guide is for you. It breaks down what the standards are, what they look like when teaching them (helps with planning) and what the students should be demonstrating (performance/skills). This guide will be with me all

the way through the coming school year as I overhaul old lessons into those with a higher level of critical thinking.

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