Language- and Literacy-Driven Social-Emotional Learning for the Classroom.
When you teach the whole student, greater academic success is achieved.

Put Students on the Fast Track to Increased Achievement.

*Voices Literature & Writing* integrates language arts and social-emotional learning (SEL) to teach the whole student and more quickly move him/her up the ladder of success (Jones et al., 2011; Miles & Stipek, 2006; Zins et al., 2004). Through social-emotional learning, students

- **gain confidence** to actively participate in learning and build 21st-century skills.
- **walk in other people’s shoes** to understand multiple perspectives, develop a sense of community, and resolve conflict.
- **strengthen their voice** to defend against bullies and help create positive learning environments that translate to greater learning gains.
Take a Research-Based Approach to SEL.

In as little as 15–20 minutes per day, *Voices Literature & Writing* focuses on developing social skills in an academic setting. This program takes advantage of the connection between social and academic outcomes.

When students feel safe and respected by their peers, they are free to learn. And when content is relevant, they are inspired to discuss and write about it—maximizing learning potential (Wentzel, 1991; Selman, 2003a; Reyes et al., 2012). This is the research base on which *Voices Literature & Writing* is built.

“Research on a group of over 200 social- and emotional-learning programs established that participants demonstrated significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance that reflected an 11-percentile-point gain in achievement.”


Two Strands, One Program

The integrated approach of *Voices Literature & Writing* is unique and powerful. No other social-emotional learning program teaches critical social skills thoroughly embedded in CCSS-based literacy content to achieve these goals:

**Deep Comprehension**

Students learn to use rich vocabulary, academic language, perspective taking, and complex reasoning skills to deepen their comprehension of text.

**Critical Writing**

Students learn to use writing for a variety of real-life purposes, including the ability to critically analyze texts.

**Authentic Voice**

Students learn to use their voice and oral language skills for important purposes, including understanding their identities and resolving conflicts.

**21st-Century Skills**

Students learn core social skills and character traits that help them communicate, collaborate, and resolve conflicts—creating a positive school climate today and preparing them for success in the workforce tomorrow.
Active student participation increases performance.

Program Themes Anchor Instruction and Engage Students.

This engaging resource for Grades K–6 utilizes six meaningful Program Themes to enhance language arts instruction and promote social awareness for increased academic achievement.

- Program themes connect the stories in the literature and capture student interest and engagement because themes are relevant to students’ daily lives.
- Engaged students are excited and motivated to actively participate in learning as they develop
  - oral language.
  - vocabulary.
  - deep comprehension.
  - critical thinking through response writing.

Six Program Themes

- Identity Awareness
- Perspective Taking
- Conflict Resolution
- Family, Friends, and Community
- Social Awareness
- Democracy
Instruction Begins With Teacher Read-Alouds to Give all Students Access.

Carefully selected, culturally diverse Teacher Read-Alouds provide students opportunities to make connections to the text, its characters, and many cultures. They provide

- **complex text** for development of vocabulary, discussion, and writing, as required by the Common Core State Standards.
- **a focus on real issues** 21st-century students care about.
- representation and exploration of a **variety of perspectives** and cultures.

Relevant Content Motivates Students to Write and Discuss in Response to Text.

When students have access to and understand multiple perspectives and make personal connections to the text, they develop a sense of community and the confidence and inspiration to write about and discuss its content.

Writing skills improve with Minilessons that build to a culminating, process-based writing project. Students are instructed on

- **Common Core State Standards text types** (Narrative, Informative/Explanatory, and Opinion or Argument).
- **the six traits of writing**.
- **the writing process**.

Utilizing discussion and collaboration routines—partner sharing, partner interviews, and partner brainstorming—for exploring content, students develop trusting relationships and become better able to share their perspectives.
The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) demand that students gain important 21st-century skills:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Perspective taking
- Critical thinking

Three important elements of *Voices Literature & Writing* help you achieve the goals of the CCSS:

- Teacher Read-Alouds
- Collaboration activities
- Social-emotional learning

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**Teacher Read-Alouds and the CCSS**

“By reading a story or nonfiction selection aloud, teachers allow children to experience written language without the burden of decoding, granting them access to content that they may not be able to read and understand by themselves....Children are then free to focus their mental energy on the words and ideas presented in the text, and they will eventually be better prepared to tackle rich written content on their own.”

— Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy, Appendix A, page 27
References


Collaboration and the CCSS

“…the Speaking and Listening standards require students to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills. Students must learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from varied sources, evaluate what they hear, use media and visual displays strategically to help achieve communicative purposes, and adapt speech to context and task.”

— Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy, page 8

Social-Emotional Learning and the CCSS

“Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and listening, and they are able to communicate effectively with people of varied backgrounds…. Through reading great literature representative of a variety of periods, cultures and world views, students can vicariously inhabit worlds and have experiences much different than their own.”

— Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy, page 7

Extend social-emotional learning theme instruction with Voices 3C eLessons and Leveled Library.

Voices 3C eLessons and Leveled Library is organized into the same six Program Themes as Voices Literature & Writing, so that you can carry the Themes into small-group and independent reading. 648 titles for Guided Reading Levels AA–Z, each containing a school-to-home connection activity, are available for Grades K–6.
Voices Literature & Writing is a supplemental, social-emotional-learning, and character-education resource delivered through a unique, integrated language arts approach.

This powerful resource for Grades K–6

• augments your core reading and/or writing framework to help create a positive learning environment and increase academic achievement.

• complements existing character-education and anti-bullying programs.

• aligns to the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) five core Social and Emotional Competencies and Character Education Partnership’s 11 Principles of Effective Character Education.

• utilizes Common-Core-State-Standards-aligned reading and writing activities that are relevant and engaging to get students listening, speaking, thinking, and writing.

• supports development of 21st-century skills emphasized in the Common Core State Standards—communication, collaboration, perspective taking, and critical thinking.

• is affordable, flexible, easy-to-manage, and appropriate for any school or classroom.
Voices Literature & Writing
is education for life.

Voices Literature & Writing promotes these Common-Core-State-Standards-aligned goals that advance literacy and social development.

Deep Comprehension
Students learn to use rich vocabulary, academic language, perspective taking, and complex reasoning skills to deepen their comprehension of text.

Critical Writing
Students learn to use writing for a variety of real-life purposes, including the ability to critically analyze texts.

Authentic Voice
Students learn to use their voice and oral language skills for important purposes, including understanding their identities and resolving conflicts.

21st-Century Skills
Students learn core social skills and character traits that help them communicate, collaborate, and resolve conflicts—creating a positive school climate today and preparing them for success in the workforce tomorrow.

Six Theme Packages per Grade Level
Each Voices Literature & Writing Theme Package provides instructional resources to teach one of six themes at a grade level:

- Teacher Guide
- 5 Teacher Read-Alouds (Grades K–3) or 3 Teacher Read-Alouds (Grades 4–6)
- 1-year online access to Digital Resources (for interactive white board)
- Read-Aloud CD
- Teaching Masters CD-ROM with Answer Key
- Assessment Handbook with CD-ROM

Learn more and view samples at www.zaner-bloser.com/VoicesLiteratureAndWriting