



**EMC School**  
**Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature**  
**Grades 6-12, ©2016**  
**Program Background Information**

*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”*

—Sydney J. Harris

Great literature provides mirrors that help us reflect on our own world and windows that lead us into new worlds. This metaphor for the reading experience expresses the power of words to engage and transform. *Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature* is built on a collection of rich, diverse, and timeless writings by renowned, award-winning authors. This seven-level program challenges students to reach their maximum potential while differentiating instruction for individual learners. *Mirrors & Windows'* exclusive *gradual release of responsibility* approach provides three levels of close reading support in each unit: Guided Reading, Directed Reading, and Independent Reading. This research-based scaffolded method builds students' ability to read and comprehend complex texts independently and proficiently. They will learn to recognize and make connections between the texts, the world, and themselves. Along the way, they will discover a love of literature that will grow throughout their lives. Our diverse selections, complex texts, and supports for all learners will ensure success and truly turn mirrors into windows for your students.

Instruction in *Mirrors & Windows: Connecting with Literature* is based on decades of solid research and best practices in language arts education. *Mirrors & Windows* was developed with a diverse group of language arts and educational professionals, from thirty states representing each region of the country, continually reviewing materials. This diligent process ensured that pedagogy and content meets high development standards and material is delivered in accessible, engaging formats. Contributions from a broad range of educational consultants and reviewers included classroom instructors and specialists in the areas of English language arts, literacy, reading, speech and drama, communication arts, Title 1 reading, English language learning, gifted education, assessment, continuous improvement, administration, and higher education.

Research is based on the approaches of many experts in the field, including Michael Graves (scaffolded instruction), Edmund Farrell and Louise Rosenblatt (engagement and reader

response), P. D. Pearson, M.C. Gallagher, and Lev Vygotsky (gradual release of responsibility), Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey (close reading), Grant Wiggins (essential questions), Kelly Gallagher (deeper reading), Deborah Appleman (literary criticism), and Robert Marzano and Victoria Young (assessment). A complete list of research resources is available on request.

The *Mirrors & Windows* program has been adopted throughout the nation, in a wide range of school settings, with positive evaluations of the program and resultant teacher practices that have had a positive impact on student achievement. The program is 100% aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards for ELA. The Passport<sup>®</sup> learning environment seamlessly delivers EMC's language arts content and assets along with the latest performance-based learning technologies.

EMC Connect is our team of training and support professionals, who are dedicated to ensuring a school district's adoption of EMC programs is successful from the outset. With each adoption, we offer a comprehensive implementation program. We take a personal approach to onboarding and training all of our customers. An onboarding specialist will work with district staff to ensure connectivity and to prepare accounts so that training and classes will be successful. Once accounts have been successfully on-boarded, implementation training is customized to accommodate the needs and requirements of individual schools and districts. Our team of Learning Solutions Specialists (former teachers and subject matter experts) will work with each client to share their expertise about EMC's products and plan a unique training experience to suit your needs. The Learning Solutions Specialists will make sure teachers have the confidence to make the transition to EMC programs as smooth as possible by providing hands-on training, strategy recommendations, and ongoing support to optimize usage of content and digital tools. Training is delivered via WebEx, in-person, or a combination of both, and can take from 2 to 6 hours depending on the products and programs purchased.

Post-implementation, EMC Connect will be at your service throughout the life of the adoption. We offer regular refresher workshops, onboarding for new teachers, and a wide range of professional development courses. Our Help Center provides a wealth of support materials and can answer most frequently asked questions. In the Help Center you can also live chat with support staff or choose a one-on-one session to fit your schedule. Our Outreach team will check in on a regular basis to follow up and provide technical support, guidance on integration, suggestions for student engagement, further training, or professional development options.