

## **K-5 English Language Arts & Reading Adoption**

2017-2018

### **Rationale**

Reading proficiency is foundational to all learning. Lack of proficiency in reading has been linked to multiple poor life outcomes including: drop out, lack of employment, lower wages, and fewer opportunities for advancement (Reading at Risk, 2004). For this reason, the state of Minnesota has adopted legislation that focuses on closing our achievement gap and ensuring that all students are reading proficiently by the end of grade 3.

In 2010, Minnesota adopted new standards for reading that stress critical-thinking, problem solving, and analytical skills necessary for success in life. These standards are rigorous and raise the bar for reading achievement. Our students' success on these standards is measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment of Reading (MCA).

Our current reading materials, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Storytown series, is based on a previous set of standards developed in 2003. The rigor of Storytown and its lack of alignment to our current state standards make it problematic in terms of implementing our current state standards. For this reason, our district made the decision to pilot and adopt new materials.

### **Process**

Materials from four publishers were reviewed based a list of criteria:

- Alignment with the Minnesota state standards and benchmarks
- Differentiation and Scaffolding
- Cultural Responsiveness
- Best Practice Instruction
- Critical Thinking
- Engagement
- Technology Integration
- Professional Development

Of the four publishers, two were chosen: Wonders by McGraw Hill and Journeys by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Teachers piloted the materials and rated them based on the criteria above. Wonders was chosen by an overwhelming margin.

### **Proposal**

Purchase Wonders by McGraw Hill: **\$781,533.15**