



Teaching Standards through Story:

*A White Paper on the Educational Implications of Incorporating **Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man**, a High-Interest Educational Fiction Book, into the Elementary School Curriculum*

As educators, we are charged with ensuring that all children have access to a high-quality education and reach proficiency on standardized tests measuring performance on state standards. Compounding the intricate set of regulations under which we must work are resource limitations which hinder us from providing a superior education for our students. We understand the effects and importance of standardized testing, but time constraints make us question whether we have taught everything without omitting anything that our students need. Textbooks do teach standards but rarely keep students engaged. Fiction books keep students interested, but don't teach particular state standards. Worse still, the prevalence of realistic video games and instant messaging make it tremendously difficult to compete for our students' attention. How then, do we redirect their attention on those aspects of learning that they need to be successful and keep them interested long enough to absorb instruction?

Fortunately, there is now an alternative to textbooks that covers all state standards. Developed by an educator and published by Student Solutions, Inc., an educational nonprofit, *Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man* makes test prep fun by teaching to the curriculum, not just the test.

Student Solutions, Inc., is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit agency dedicated to boosting student achievement through the development of creative educational publications. The organization is based in Chapel Hill, NC, and employs a talented and diverse staff, including curriculum specialists in New York, North Carolina, Georgia, and California.

Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man is a humorous, research-based fiction book that teaches hundreds of math, reading, science, and social studies concepts through an engaging story about a third grader who sets out to pass a standardized test. Kids appreciate it for its humor. Parents enjoy how it helps reluctant readers fall in love with reading. Second grade teachers use it for their high-achievers. Third grade teachers love the curriculum alignment and built-in comprehension questions, and fourth grade teachers use it for remediation. Many public schools include the book in Title 1 intervention programs and School Improvement Plans (SIP).

The book was written for students reading at a third grade level to prevent text complexity from interrupting the strategic reading process. This highly engaging children's book incorporates:

- Instructional support traditionally found in textbooks
- Humor, literary style, and the incorporation of bookstore fiction
- Readability and fluency-building text structure of guided reading materials
- Built-in higher order Bloom's Taxonomy questions (analysis, synthesis and evaluation)
- Vocabulary pictures to assist English Language Learners and struggling readers
- Open-ended comprehension questions that promote creativity
- Third grade curriculum standards for language arts, math, science, and social studies

One of the features of *Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man* is the built-in teacher. Within its plot, the narrator instructs students to perform strategic reading steps, such as activating prior knowledge, making connections and predictions, and rereading.

It is important to note that *Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man* is not an instructional program; it is an educational children's fiction book. When combined with a researched-based instructional program, it brings diversity to classroom libraries and encourages students to engage in learning strategies widely accepted by researchers and professional educational associations.

All *Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man* books are aligned to the heavily-researched performance standards for each state and reflect sound educational research practices. The books are also leveled using the research-based Lexile Framework and aligned by curriculum specialists who are national board certified educators. The strategic reading prompts, Bloom's Taxonomy questions, and metacognitive strategies embedded in these subject-integrated books are based on best practices identified in educational journals and current research in mathematics, language arts, reading, social studies, and science instruction. Student Solutions also uses resources available to its curriculum specialists via ASCD, NCTE, and NCTM to incorporate tested and peer-reviewed instructional strategies in its publications.

Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man can be used as a remediation tool, guided or independent reader, read-aloud, or in literature circles. The standards table at the end of the books lists the course concepts referenced on each page so that educators can segue into a more detailed lesson on that concept. The references to standards in the text are often subtle and are meant to serve as teachable moments, not as substitutes for rigorous instruction.

The Chicken Nugget Man® Series of Educational Publications offers hundreds of teachable moments in the form of built-in comprehension questions, word problems, historical facts, Bloom's Taxonomy critical thinking questions, and detailed explanations of scientific concepts, all in kid-friendly language. The book has at least one teachable moment for each math, language arts, science, and social studies course fundamentals referenced in the third grade curriculum for Georgia, California, New York and North Carolina. This means that if teachers take time to discuss and explain each lesson in the book with students, they will have taught every single course concept that third graders are expected to learn by the end of the year.

Attack of the Chicken Nugget Man is an empowering resource for parents who are invested in their child's academic success and a must-have book for educators intent on ensuring the mastery of every curriculum concept by the end of the year.

Reviews from teachers and parents indicate both high levels of student interest in the plot and exceptional engagement in instructional activities and comprehension questions embedded within the books:

"My students begged each day to hear more of the story. They laughed out loud and were actively involved in discussions. They didn't even complain about answering the questions at the end of the chapters. I loved the math problems throughout the book. They made great teachable moments." -Third grade teacher, Clinton, NC.

"Teachers used the books in centers. Student reactions to the books were fantastic. It was a joy to see students actually read and react to the book. They smiled and laughed with actual comments to each other."- Tawana Phillips-Taylor, Academic Coach, Hollydale Elementary School, Marietta, GA

Additional reviews and information about the Chicken Nugget Man Series of Educational Publications® can be found at <http://www.FunTestPrep.com>.

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