

Texas has approved four grades 1-5 Science programs,  
and four grades 9-12 Literature series,  
for 2000 local adoption

## Elementary Science

Texas does not require elementary Science books to discuss evolution. But if they present a scientific theory in grades 3-5, by law they must tell its scientific strengths *and weaknesses*. Our reviews of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science books of the four series submitted for 2000 local Texas adoption, show how closely they conform to this rule in teaching evolution. On that basis they rank as follows:

- BETTER** HARCOURT SCIENCE  
(Harcourt, 2000)
- BETTER** SCOTT FORESMAN SCIENCE  
(Addison-Wesley, 2000)
- POOR** MCGRAW-HILL SCIENCE  
(McGraw-Hill, 2000)
- POOR** HOUGHTON MIFFLIN SCIENCE  
(Houghton Mifflin, 2000)

Their 5<sup>th</sup> Grade texts suggest that McGraw and Houghton are *much more dogmatic on evolution* than Harcourt and Scott. How could the state review panel miss these violations of Texas standards? Maybe the same way that it found only 32 factual errors and technical defects in those four programs at all grade levels, while we found 178 more in Grade 5 alone. We have full documentation.

## High School Literature

Publishers market texts by their teaching aids. We judge books by their subject-matter content. Based on our reviews of the story content of the literary selections in their 11<sup>th</sup> Grade American Literature programs, the four high school Literature series submitted for 2000 local Texas adoption rank thus:

- BETTER** LITERATURE:  
The Reader's Choice  
(Glencoe, 2000)
- FAIR** LITERATURE:  
Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes  
(Prentice Hall, 2000)
- FAIR** ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE  
(Holt Rinehart Winston, 2000)

**POOR** LANGUAGE OF LITERATURE  
(McDougal Littell, 2000)

Unique among these series in the degree of its fixation on death and dying, in the extent of its emphasis on life's hopelessness, and in the intensity of its theme of loneliness; more often presents whites as enemies and nonwhites as victims; most frequently contrasts the meanness of Christians with the peace existing among pagans.

---

No publisher funded these reviews in any way. We have no financial stake in any textbook company. Unlike publishers' sales reps, we have no monetary interest in any textbook adoption outcome. Our support comes from concerned individuals and a few small foundations, none of whom to our knowledge have any connection with the public school textbook industry.

---