

# A Message for Texas Educators

## What can **transform** the landscape of literacy education in every school?



Fountas & Pinnell

**Classroom™**

is built on a  
transformative

vision of what literacy education can be: a shared commitment to meaningful, effective, responsive teaching that ensures the right of every student to lead a LITERATE LIFE. Every child has the right to grow up literate as a member of a dynamic learning community that values the richness of linguistic,

ethnic, and cultural diversity. All children deserve access to an authentic, rich, and diverse text base—one that creates lifelong readers who have the power of choice, the ability to make decisions about books, the freedom to have opinions, the opportunity to think critically, and the pleasure of reading every day.

## What makes *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™* **transformative**?

**Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™ (FPC)** is a cohesive, multi-text approach to literacy instruction for ALL students in grades PreK–6 designed to support whole-group, small-group, and independent learning. By now, you're likely implementing or considering the implementation of *FPC* in your PreK–3 classrooms and

are wondering what resources to turn to for your grade 4–6 students until those materials are available in the Fall of 2019. We know you have many choices when choosing a literacy system that's right for your school community, but what sets *FPC* apart from other literacy systems is transformative, and well worth the wait.

1



Coherence

2



Authenticity

3



Framework

4



Research-Based Instruction



WATCH a **video message** from literacy leaders  
**Irene C. Fountas** and **Gay Su Pinnell**

Achieving substantial school-wide growth is possible if a community of educators is willing to undertake the journey together.

- Irene C. Fountas & Gay Su Pinnell



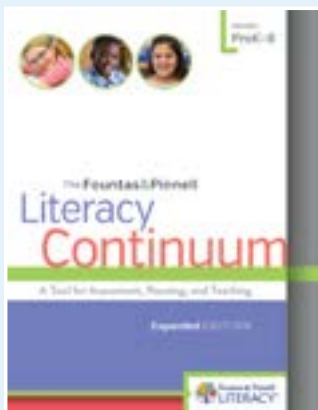
# Coherence

## The Instructional Anchor:

### *The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum*

Imagine a school where all educators teach for the same behaviors and understandings using a common language, where the lesson framework helps develop a consistent thread that students become familiar and comfortable with year after year, and where students' literacy progress is the shared responsibility of every teacher, coach, and administrator in the school community. **FPC** is a comprehensive classroom system built around **The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum** to help educators choose lessons and books that meet students where they are and move them forward towards proficiency. Not only do students benefit from responsive teaching and engaging books at every grade level, but educators also benefit from the opportunity to build their own expertise as they work with the materials.

**The Literacy Continuum** is THE root of instructional coherence in **FPC** and is the only literacy tool of its kind on the market. In fact, **The Literacy Continuum** is the thread, the anchor of ALL of Fountas and Pinnell's work. It creates instructional coherence among all teachers that work with students, forging a seamless link from assessment to responsive teaching.





# Authenticity

## Thousands of Books, Created and Curated by Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell

Authentic books and lots of them are at the heart of **FPC**—exciting books to stir students' imaginations, beautifully crafted books to enhance children's language and content knowledge, challenging books to lift every reader, and diverse books to expand readers' life experiences and knowledge of their world.

The **FPC Guided Reading Collections** are the best of their kind on the market, created exclusively for **Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™** by a team of talented children's authors and illustrators under the direction of Fountas and Pinnell. Each Guided Reading book was carefully written and calibrated to match the text characteristics for Levels A–Z on the F&P Text Level Gradient™ and to support efficient processing and successful comprehension. Interactive Read-Aloud, Independent Reading, and Book Clubs feature award-winning, acquired trade titles, curated by Fountas and Pinnell with careful attention to diversity to ensure students can see themselves reflected in the books they read and write about. **Every title, carefully selected or edited to support an instructional context, has a purpose.**



## A Familiar Lesson Structure With Increasing Complexity by Grade

[illegible]



# Research-Based Instruction

## Decades of Classroom Experience: a Robust Research-Based Professional Book Base

**FPC** is built on a foundation of more than 25 years of classroom experience and incorporates leading thinking around literacy instruction, as well as the authors' own research about how literacy develops in children over time. In addition, **FPC** is deeply rooted in decades of research-based professional books—a solid foundation of theory written in a practical voice for teachers and school leaders. The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ systems were developed from this research base and are intricately connected to and complement one another for instructional coherence. Heinemann is the only publisher of Fountas and Pinnell's collective and comprehensive literacy work, which includes a complete and cohesive **classroom literacy system, intervention system, assessment system, professional book base, and professional learning opportunities.**



# A Coherent Design to Engage Diverse Learners in Grades 4–6

## IRA

- More challenging themes and messages in each text set
- Includes some short story collections and shorter novels
- Authentic inquiry projects to engage students in real-life problem-solving
- Includes 120 trade titles per grade organized in text sets to support thinking

## BC

- More challenging themes and messages in each text set
- Includes some short story collections and novels
- Includes 48 trade titles per grade linked to Interactive Read-Aloud

## IR

- Greater volume and variety of genres
- Genres and forms that engage and inspire older students
- Includes 200 trade titles per grade

## PWS

- Inquiry-based lessons with emphasis on vocabulary building and multisyllable words
- Intensive work with irregular letter patterns, affixes, and word origins (including Latin and Greek roots)
- Extensive, specialized word lists

\* Grades 5-6: in development.

## GR

- Features a large quantity of engaging nonfiction books to increase content knowledge
- Intensive teaching for the development of strategic actions for decoding, fluency and comprehending texts
- Continued emphasis on series and greater number of graphic texts
- Books span levels N-Z on the F&P Text Level Gradient™: 180 original titles in Grade 4, 170 original titles in Grade 5, and 150 original titles in Grade 6

## RML

- Features sophisticated literary analysis lessons for fiction and nonfiction texts
- Includes emphasis on social-emotional conversational moves for deep discussion
- Develops awareness of the writer's craft and understanding of the organization of different genres of text
- Emphasis on writing about reading and the use of Advanced Reader's Notebooks

## GENERAL

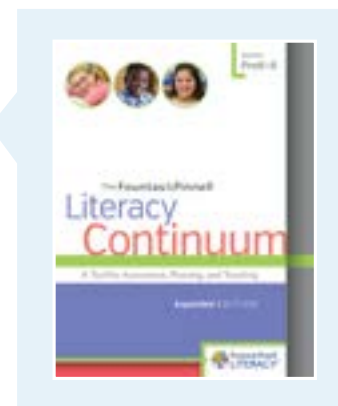
- Project-based writing
- More emphasis on literary analysis and content knowledge
- Links to disciplinary learning
- Texts that challenge students to think more deeply about themselves and their world
- Increased sophistication in thematic content
- Emphasis on human challenges and social justice issues
- Includes emphasis on writing about reading and the use of Advanced Reader's Notebooks



# What to Do While You're Waiting for Grades 4–6

## Get to know *The Literacy Continuum*:

- Get copies of ***The Literacy Continuum*** for every teacher in your school; learning how to use this essential tool will ensure that teachers are ready to implement **FPC**
- Download [\*The Literacy Continuum\*](#) study guide and establish professional learning communities with colleagues
- Create a sample lesson using your favorite trade title for Interactive Read-Aloud along with relevant grade-level goals from ***The Literacy Continuum***
- Review the Guided Reading section of ***The Literacy Continuum*** from levels Q–Z: texts featured in these sections will be part of the **FPC Guided Reading Collections** for grades 4–6



## Take advantage of free professional learning opportunities:

- Prepare for implementation with the **FPC Interactive Action Plan**, an essential tool to help you reflect on your school community's vision and values, and create a shared school vision
- Watch free, recorded webinars at [fountasandpinnell.com](http://fountasandpinnell.com)
- Join The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ Learning Group on Facebook to engage in conversation and learning with peers from all across the world:  
[facebook.com/groups/fountaspinnell](https://facebook.com/groups/fountaspinnell)

## Familiarize yourself with FPC lessons, books, and other FPL materials:

- Investigate fee-based professional learning options
- Observe K-3 classrooms who are already using **FPC** resources, and talk with colleagues about what differences they are noticing in their literacy instruction
- Review the **FPC 4–6 Implementation Timeline** [available at [fountasandpinnell.com/fpc](http://fountasandpinnell.com/fpc)] and be on the lookout for samplers in 2019
- Refer to the “Prompts for Book Discussions” section in the **Fountas & Pinnell Prompting Guide, Part 2** to deepen the level of conversation during Book Clubs with your students
- Refer to the “Prompts for Reading Conferences” section in the **Prompting Guide, Part 2** to engage in Independent Reading conferences with students
- Continue using the **Benchmark Assessment System 2** and ***The Literacy Continuum*** to guide your teaching decisions and extend the pathway towards instructional coherence

# Join the Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ Community

## Designed for teachers, literacy leaders, and district administrators

We invite you to join the thousands of educators from around the world on one of the fastest-growing online literacy communities and gain exclusive access to tools, resources, conversations, videos, tips, inspiration, and much more.

### Free Membership

- Exclusive Webinars hosted by Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell
- Daily Lit Bits
- Consultant-led Discussion Board
- Instructional Tools and Resource Library
- Study Guides

### DOWNLOAD

the TEKS alignment to *The Literacy Continuum*, Expanded Edition—the foundation for *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom™*—for grades K through 8. A helpful tool for Texas teachers!

Available at [fountasandpinnell.com](http://fountasandpinnell.com) and accessible via the QR code on the front cover

[fountasandpinnell.com](http://fountasandpinnell.com)

*Your daily literacy retreat to reflect, recharge,  
research, and redefine your literacy instruction.*

### Continue the conversation online:



@FountasPinnell  
#FPLiteracy



Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™  
@FountasandPinnell



@FountasPinnell  
#fountasandpinnell



Fountas & Pinnell Literacy™ Learning Group  
[facebook.com/groups/fountasandpinnell](https://facebook.com/groups/fountasandpinnell)