



Features

- *Outstanding literature carefully selected based on four major criteria.*
- *Multiyear professional development based on the method of Shared Inquiry.*

Results



With Junior Great Books as part of their curriculum, students

- *make significant gains in critical thinking and reading,*
- *make significant gains in reading vocabulary, and*
- *improve their listening skills.*
- *attitudes toward one another improve and they learn to respect one another's opinions.*

The Program

Junior Great Books, a K-12 program, integrates literature, language, and comprehension into a program that provides a balance of oral and written expression. Students read for meaning; take ideas seriously enough to weigh, support, develop, and share them; and write clearly and often about what they think and what they believe.

Junior Great Books literature is carefully chosen to stimulate and sustain discussion and pre- and post-discussion interpretive activities. Students engage with ideas in literature, primary source history, science and Spanish language in a structured search for meaning. We call this search for meaning Shared Inquiry. In Shared Inquiry, students and teachers work together to uncover the deeper meanings in a text. Teachers pose genuine, thought-provoking questions, and students respond with their own ideas. Students then use evidence from the text to develop and refine their interpretations.

Through Shared Inquiry and engaging literature, Junior Great Books helps students improve their skills in four key areas: critical thinking, literacy, language arts, and listening.

Junior Great Books is used by schools statewide, with significant use in NYC. NYC uses district and literacy funding to implement the JGB program.

Professional Development

Customized multiyear professional development is offered by the Great Books Foundation. All courses include course materials. The program includes:

- Shared Inquiry Leader Workshop – Level I (2 days, 10 hours total)
- Shared Inquiry Leader Workshop – Level II (1 or 2 days, 5 hours each)
- Shared Inquiry Leader Workshop – Level III (1 day, 5 hours) (includes training on how to evaluate discussion, assess students' writing, and peer mentoring)
- Consultation Days (on-site days throughout the year)

Costs & Funding Options

General costs: Materials - \$20.00/student/semester; \$23.00/teacher/semester
Training - \$149.00/person for the Level I Course; \$79.00 each for one-day Level II and III training courses; \$1500.00/day for consultation days.

Grant Funds: Special projects are funded by Ameritech, the Education Network, and the Annenberg Foundation.

Learning Standards

English Language Arts: 1) read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding; 3) read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

Contact

Dr. Mitch Gurfield
718-796-6905
E-mail: mitchgurfield@greatbooks.org
Tom Kerschner
Eastern Division Sales Director
800-222-5870 x 255
E-mail: tom.kerschner@greatbooks.org or
Linda Barrett
Regional Training Instructor
Cell No.: 917-273-4491
E-mail: Linda.barrett@greatbooks.org