

## Questionnaire (IM8)

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**Authors & Credentials: List full name of author(s), with major or senior author listed first. Briefly provide credentials for each author.**

*Answer:* Carol Francis graduated from Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) with a Master of Arts in English and then taught literature and composition at the university for almost 5 years. She has worked for 13 years as the Editorial Director at Perfection Learning and prior to that served in the same role for Follett Publishing Company. She has also worked as an independent writer, author, and consultant developing a wide variety of K-12 education instructional materials including an interactive elementary grammar software program for Gamco, social studies and American literature products for McDougal Littell, online teacher training materials in reading pedagogy for VoyagerU, language arts and social studies for D.C. Heath and Co., the BK English 6-12 program for Barrett Kendall, and an online literature program for Follett Software Company.

Andrea Stark has a Bachelor's degree in English Language Arts Teacher Education from Baptist Bible College and Seminary (now Clarks Summit University, Clarks Summit, PA). She spent almost four years teaching grades 9-12 writing, literature, speech, and journalism classes at Grandview Park Baptist School in Des Moines, Iowa and did freelance work as a curriculum writer and developer. Ms. Stark currently works as a Lead Editor for Perfection Learning where over her 13 year career, she has developed a variety of high school literature, writing, and vocabulary programs.

The Perfection Learning Classics digital eBook library includes over 160 titles representing the literature canon and its various authors.

**Students: Describe the type(s) of students for which this submission is intended.**

*Answer:* The Florida Connections program is a flexible program intended for all levels of students. It includes lesson level specific support for English Language Learners and suggestions for remediation.

The Perfection Learning Classics digital eBook library includes fiction and nonfiction appropriate for grades 9-12.

**1. List the Florida districts in which this program has been piloted in the last eighteen months.**

*Answer:* none

**2. HOW ARE YOUR DIGITAL MATERIALS SEARCHABLE BY FLORIDA STATE STANDARDS (SECTION 1006.33(1)(E), FLORIDA STATUTES)?**

*Answer:* The Perfection Next platform upon which these programs are accessible allows teachers to search by Florida State Standards to find resources matching the specified standard.

**3. IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE COMPONENTS OF THE MAJOR TOOL. The Major Tool is comprised of the items necessary to meet the standards and requirements of the category**

**for which it is designed and submitted. As part of this section, include a description of the educational approach of the submission.**

**Educational Approach: (The information provided here will be used in the instructional materials catalog in the case of adoption of the program. Please limit your response to 500 words or less.)**

*Answer:* Florida Connections is a research-based program that provides students the foundation for success through its unique approach to high-quality, complex texts. Three close readings of each selection move students from comprehending key ideas to synthesizing and connecting themes across texts. Within each read, scaffolded activities help all students navigate and access complex texts. Writing, language, assessment, and extension activities keep students engaged and on track to meet the state standards. Each lesson is further supported by focused language and writing minilessons and skills practice.

The Perfection Classics eBook Digital Library represents student voice and choice in selecting texts for independent reading and teacher flexibility in choosing titles for assigned reading.

**Major Tool – Student Components: Describe each of the components, including a format description.**

*Answer:* The Major Student Tools are both online programs delivered through Perfection Learning's Perfection Next platform. The Florida Connections program is interactive and provides all instructional support. To incorporate the Florida required literature selections, all users also have access to the Perfection Classics digital eBook library.

The Interactive edition of Florida Connections provides three close readings of each selection moving students from comprehending key ideas to synthesizing and connecting themes across texts. Within each read, scaffolded activities help all students navigate and access complex texts. Students interact with the texts using digital annotation tools to identify, label, and comment on textual evidence and a digital notebook to collect evidence. Students share ideas and perspectives in reaction to text-based questions using a Collaboration Wall that mimics familiar social media tools to allow sharing between all students and the teacher. Interactive editions also feature an Immersive Reader that allows students of all abilities to tailor their reading experience through use of a picture dictionary, font and background customization, text-to-speech tools, and translation into over 60 languages. An eBook edition is also embedded in the Interactive Edition to allow for offline access using the Perfection Next on the Go app.

The Perfection Classics digital library includes eBook editions of over 160 fiction and nonfiction titles including unabridged short stories, essays, and poetry collections and complete classic works. This title listing encompasses not only many of the Florida required literature selections but also many more to allow students and teachers choice in independent or assigned reading. The titles are available online and offline through the Perfection Next on the Go app. The digital library provides convenient access to the canon of classic literature with unlimited building access for all students and teachers.

**Major Tool – Teacher Components: Describe each of the components, including a format description.**

*Answer:* The Florida Connections Interactive Edition is accessed by both students and teachers with the user profile determining the components available only to the teacher. This includes a view into each student's work as well as real-time reporting, gradebook, and individualization capabilities.

**4. IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE ANCILLARY MATERIALS. Briefly describe the ancillary materials and their relationship to the major tool.**

**Ancillary Materials – Student Components: Describe each of the components, including a format description.**

*Answer:* The Connections Literature series provides a rich set of texts, both classic and contemporary, to probe relevant issues, generate lively discussions, and develop literary analysis and writing skills.

The 12th grade program includes a classroom set (30 hardcover student editions) of the title *British Literature*--makes the expanse of British literature from the 400s through today accessible and inviting by connecting historical events to today and providing modern English support for challenging passages and words. A special focus is on Thinking and Reading Critically. Selected authors: Chaucer, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Swift, Smith, Haddon, Orwell, Churchill, Burns, Blake, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Hardy, Woolf, Malory, Raleigh, Wordsworth, Browning, Yeats, Tennyson, Lawrence, Mansfield, Joyce, Eliot, Auden, Thomas, Housman.

The Perfection Learning Leveled Classics digital eBook library includes over 60 titles to enhance accessibility and engage students in developing reading skills. 29 Retold novels and anthologies are authentic adaptations of many widely-taught works that maintain the voice, style, and meaning of the original text. 40 Timeless Classics are abridged adaptations of classic works featuring short selections, carefully-chosen vocabulary, and appealing visuals to aid comprehension. An original play in each anthology builds oral fluency. The digital library provides unlimited building access for all students and teachers.

**Ancillary Materials – Teacher Components: Describe each of the components, including a format description.**

*Answer:* The classroom set of the *British Literature* student edition includes a print Teacher Edition with unit planners, varied assessments, writing prompts and projects, and differentiation suggestions for ELL students, striving readers, gifted students, and students working at grade level. It also includes a *Great Books Shared Inquiry Guide* with suggestions and text models for developing Shared Inquiry™ in the ELA classroom.

The Perfection Learning Leveled Classics digital eBook library includes instructional support for all titles including quizzes, comprehension activities, reading and writing skill development, vocabulary, study skills, and more.

**5. Identify which industry standard protocols are utilized for interoperability?**

*Answer:* The Perfection Next platform through which Florida Connections and the Perfection Classics and Leveled Classic eBook Digital Libraries are accessed, is IMS Global certified for LTI 1.3 and One Roster 1.1. In addition, it supports integrations with Classlink, Clever, and Google Classroom. Perfection Next also supports SAML 2. Products are also available as Thin Common Cartridge. Perfection Learning is a Canvas partner with Perfection Next supporting full integration with Canvas including grade passback.

**6. HOW MUCH INSTRUCTIONAL TIME IS NEEDED FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM? Identify and explain the suggested instructional time for this submission. If a series, state the suggested time for each level. The goal is to determine whether the amount of content is suitable to the length of the course for which it is submitted.**

*Answer:* The program is intended for a year long course and detailed pacing guides are included in the teacher support with suggested timeframes for each lesson.

**7. WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS AVAILABLE? Describe the ongoing learning opportunities available to teachers and other education personnel that will be delivered through their schools and districts as well as the training/in-service available directly from the publisher for successful implementation of the program. Also provide details of the type of training/in-service available and how it may be obtained. (The information provided here will be used in the instructional materials catalog in the case of adoption of the program.)**

*Answer:* The following is a list of the types of sessions that can be provided as professional development for Florida Connections. These sessions are meant to assist classroom teachers, specialists, coaches and administrators to implement the program in your district. These sessions can be modified to meet district needs:

Program Overview for Classroom Teachers: The goal of the initial overview is to provide teachers with a thorough introduction to Perfection Learning's Florida Connections program. This session may be customized to include the following topics:

- Organization of the Program
- Lesson Planning
- Strategies for Reaching All Learners

Follow-Up Program Training: Following the initial implementation, working with the district teams we will determine a plan for further training. This may include:

- Topic specific training
- Office hours to allow for questions

Annual New Teacher Training: At the start of the school year, new teachers will gain a comprehensive overview of Perfection Learning's Florida Connections program preparing them to fully implement the program in their classrooms. Content can be customized to ensure new teachers have a complete understanding of the program and are equipped with essential program knowledge to effectively use the program.

**8. WHAT HARDWARE/EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED? List and describe the hardware/equipment needed to implement the submission in the classroom. REMEMBER: Florida law does not**

**allow hardware/equipment to be included on the bid! However, schools and districts must be made aware of the hardware/equipment needed to fully implement this program.**

*Answer:* The hardware requirements for Perfection Learning's digital products and Perfection Next delivery platform are:

Required Hardware Requirements

- Minimum of 128 MB of RAM
- Minimum of 500 Mhz Processor
- 1024x768 screen resolution or greater

Perfection Next can be accessed on Mac based and PC computers, as well as iOS and Android tablets.

**9. WHAT LICENSING POLICIES AND/OR AGREEMENTS APPLY? If software is being submitted, please attach a copy of the company's licensing policies and/or agreements.**

*Answer:* When purchasing this digital resource from Perfection Learning, you are being granted a license to use the eBook file assigned to only one user for a specified length of time. The copyright and all other rights to the digital content shall remain with Perfection Learning. The licensing agreement for digital materials purchased from Perfection Learning cannot be resold, re-distributed, or shared amongst multiple users. Only one designated user can be assigned to each license.

The license for the Perfection Classics and Perfection Classics Leveled Classics eBook Digital Libraries are building-specific and allow for unlimited use by students and teachers for the period of the adoption.

**10. WHAT STATES HAVE ADOPTED THE SUBMISSION? List some of the states in which this submission is currently adopted.**

*Answer:* Texas-Texas Connections

**11. WHAT OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES RELATED TO THIS BID DO YOU MAKE AVAILABLE(S)? List and describe each of the components, including a format description. (Open Educational Resources (OER) are high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge.)**

*Answer:* Florida Connections provides direct links to open source videos, pictures, songs, commercials, speeches, and Power Point lessons in the teacher support.

**12. Although not called for in the state adoption, do you have advanced placement (ap) or accelerated program instructional materials available for the course(s) bid for adoption?**

*Answer:* Suggestions for expanding the Project-Based Assessments for more advanced learners are included in the teacher support for Florida Connections.

**13. What, if any, foreign language translations do you have available?**

*Answer:* The translation functionality built into Florida Connections will translate the featured selections into 88 languages:

Afrikaans, Arabic (Egypt), Arabic (Saudi Arabia), Bulgarian, Chinese—Simplified (China), Chinese—Simplified (Singapore), Chinese—Traditional (China), Chinese—Traditional (Hong Kong), Chinese—Traditional (Macao SAR), Chinese—Traditional (Taiwan), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English (Australia), English (Canada), English (India), English (Ireland), English (United Kingdom), English (United States), Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, French (Canada), French (France), French (Switzerland), German, German (Austria), German (Switzerland), Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong Daw, Hungarian, Icelandic, Indonesian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Kannada, Kazakh, Kiswahili, Korean, Kurdish (Central), Kurdish (Northern), Latvian, Lithuanian, Malay, Malagasy, Malayalam, Maltese, Marathi, Māori, Norwegian—Bokmål, Norwegian—Nynorsk, Odia, Pashto, Persian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Punjabi, Queretaro (Spain), Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Servian (Cyrillic), Servian (Latin), Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish (Mexico), Spanish (Spain), Swedish, Tahitian, Tamil, Teluga, Thai, Tongan, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, Vietnamese, Welsh, Yucatec Maya

**14. Do you provide access point scaffolding or an access point correlation upon request?**

*Answer:* Not at this point but it is scheduled for future development.

**15. ESSA LEVELS OF EVIDENCE: To be considered an evidence-based program (or practice), it is required to have evidence to show that the program is in fact effective at producing results and improving outcomes in reading when implemented. Identification of evidence level alignment, Levels 1-4 (as outlined in the K-12 ELA Specifications), for the entirety of the program, part of the program, or individual practices within the program is required. Please explain how your product meets these requirements.**

*Answer:* Level 4 – Demonstrates a Rationale: Supported by relevant research or an evaluation which suggests that the intervention is likely to improve a student's outcome or other relevant outcome.

Please see the following research paper.

Analyzing and Evaluating Complex Texts: Florida Connections Grades 9-12

The success of today's students is grounded in their ability to make inferences, draw conclusions, and provide textual evidence to support a deep understanding of increasingly complex texts. Florida Connections teaches close reading skills based upon research-based best practices for English Language Arts instruction.

Text selections in each unit of Florida Connections are thematically related to develop the skills of analysis and synthesis across texts through a seamless integration of all facets of the ELA standards: Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Language.

Additionally, students are asked to read text selections multiple times with a specific purpose in mind. While they may be given limited contextual information, students are encouraged to read through the text selection on their own at first, even if it means a struggle. "One of the mistakes in the past efforts to improve reading achievement has been the removal of struggle. As a profession, we may have made reading tasks too easy. We do not suggest that we should plan for student's failure but rather that the students should be provided with opportunities to struggle and to learn about themselves as a reader when they struggle,

persevere, and eventually succeed.” (Fisher, Frey, and Lapp 2012). Research-based supports are in place throughout the interactive readers as students seek to understand the complexity of the text selections before them.

### Purposeful Reading Through Thematically-Connected Texts

Thematic instruction immerses students into topics viewed from multiple perspectives. Skills are introduced and demonstrated in a variety of ways to assist students by way of example of what is the desired outcome (Cambourne, Handy, and Scown 1988). Because text selections are related thematically and increase in complexity as the chapters in a unit unfold, students learn about the topics from a variety of sources and genres while improving reading, language, and writing skills. This learning progression through both content and skills provides the teacher and student writer the scaffolds necessary to move from the reflexive mode to the extensive mode where students demonstrate mastery of skill through project- and standards-based assessments (Carroll and Wilson, 1993). Overall, each unit builds on the theme of the next unit providing a unifying quality, yet allowing flexibility for focused units of study in isolation.

### Integrated Skill Development

Language development, both oral and written, is at the heart of the Florida ELA standards. Reading a text closely, examining specifically what the author said (and in some cases did not say), how the author said it, and why it was said in the first place requires students to discuss, write, revise, and refine their thinking by engaging in authentic discussions with their peers. The groundbreaking research of Mortimer Adler in 1982 started a wave of educational reform known as The Paideia Proposal (Roberts and Billings, 1999). One of the cornerstones of Paideia was the teaching strategies our schools should employ: didactic teaching of subject matter, coaching that produces the skills of learning, and Socratic questioning in seminar discussion.

Florida Connections contains highly engaging topics and text selections with full teacher support for students as they acquire organized knowledge by means of didactic instruction. This purposeful presentation of information develops intellectual skills through exercises and supported practice in writing and language development. Additionally, students increase understanding of ideas and values by means of Socratic questioning and the active discussion of primary sources. Each unit features a chapter with a project-based assessment for a Roundtable Discussion (Roberts and Billings, 1999), complete with suggested norms and rubrics for active listening and participation (Marzano, 2007). Florida Connections prepares students to think critically and deeply about texts of increasing complexity for a deep understanding of the text that will lead to success in college and career and beyond.

### A Case for Annotation

Research supports students’ development of reading skills when texts are presented in a way that annotation can occur. Annotating texts includes the following research-based benefits:

- promotes student interest in reading and gives learners a focused purpose for writing
- supports readers' ability to clarify and synthesize ideas, pose relevant questions, and capture analytical thinking about text
- gives students a clear purpose for actively engaging with text
- causes readers to process information at a deeper level and increases their ability to recall information from the text
- helps learners comprehend difficult material and engage in what Probst (1988) describes as "dialogue with the text"

The Florida Connections Interactive Edition is designed to promote student annotations including adding purposeful notes, key words and phrases, definitions, and connections tied to specific sections of text. Students interact with the texts using digital annotation tools to identify, label, and comment on textual evidence and a digital notebook to collect evidence.

#### Works Cited

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## Bid Materials & Links (IM4)

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**Item (ISBN):** Perfection Leveled Classics Digital Library (5 year license) (9781690390589)

**Type:** Ancillary (Free)

**Format:** Internet Based