# Eric Knight

# Internship 1

Task Area 2

After evaluating our Social Studies text book with the Region 3 text book evaluation form from the state ESA’s , I have found a number of different interesting issues. I looked at Social Studies as it is a core class with state standards and a curriculum from Scott Foresman Company. I evaluated the reading level of this book as many core text books are at a much higher reading level than that of the students who are reading it. I also looked at gender bias to evaluate if there was a bias that was misleading for students and teachers. I checked the curriculum to evaluate whether or not it matched with the state standards. I also evaluated the book on cultural diversity, living in the Midwest where unfortunately there is not a great deal of diversity, I felt that Social Studies is an important place to fill these things in.

Reading levels are important, because if students aren’t able to read the materials at an independent level understanding core concepts will be difficult. In core areas like Social Studies and Science the reading materials are at a much higher level than the readers can read, I used this web-site <http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability_test_and_improve.jsp> to evaluate different one paragraph passages out of our social studies book. I tested 5 different passages, one passage from each unit in the book. From unit 1 the passage on the resources of the Northeast the passage came back at a 5th grade second month reading level. Much higher than that of beginning of the year fourth grade readers. The second passage from unit 2 came back at a little bit easier reading level 4th grade third month. The third passage was the highest a passage from unit 3 dealing with the economy of the South. This passage came back to be leveled at the 7th grade eighth month. The fourth passage was a paragraph dealing with agriculture of the Midwest, something that many students have background knowledge on came back at the 5th grade third month reading level. The last passage the I gather a reading level on was a passage from unit 5 on people of the West, this passage was graded at the 5th grade second month. All the levels were above the fourth grade reading level and above many of the student’s reading levels. This is important to know so that teachers have an understanding of what students will be able to accomplish at an independent level and what they will need guidance to read and understand.

The second area that I looked at, was did this series meet the standards that are supposed to be covered at the fourth grade level in the area of Social Studies. This book it remarkably well at meeting these standards. The book did fall short in a couple areas as well. It fell well short in the area of South Dakota History standards for fourth grade. It also fell short in the area of analyzing geographic representations, tools, and technology. The places that it did fall short would be places that a teacher would need to supplement materials. This would be beneficial for teachers to know so they can get resources to meet the state standards.

Another area where the text book was evaluated was on gender bias in the book. This Social Studies curriculum has a well rounded and balanced concept. The book obviously had many issues dealing with males as they were the founders, settlers, and voyagers that are talked about. The book set aside a one chapter that discussed women and the settlement process as well as women in the different equality settings. The book does a great job of giving a variety of women and the thing they were involved in during the women’s movement.