

When our grandson was in the 6th grade last year, for the first nine weeks, the teacher assigned for Accelerated Reading(AR) a BINGO form called READO. The books he could read were Common Core approved only.

Our grandson read the book Swindle. This book was about a boy who possessed a baseball card. He took it to a man who ran a store like a pawn shop. The man paid the boy \$100 for the card. The man suspected and found out the card was worth a lot of money. The boy found out about this and devised ways to steal the card back. The boy enlisted the help of friends.

What morals does this teach children?

When our grandson took the AR test he received a 70% grade. When the automatic email came, the grade he received was an F. I sent the teacher an email saying, "Please bare with me regarding the AR assignments for this quarter. I thought our grandson did pretty good getting a 70% on Swindle. 70% is usually a "C". The teacher wrote back that points don't count and the students need to receive 80% or above on their AR tests.

Consequently, the students need to keep reading books and taking the AR tests until they achieve 80% or above on five books for each quarter. I also asked the teacher for a copy of his graded AR test for Swindle. The teacher wrote back, " I can't get copies of tests taken or copies of book tests--it is a computerized program done through the internet."

Why can't parents/caretakers see the finished/graded tests? It is difficult to believe that tests cannot be printed out for the students to bring home. I have a computer with a printer and most computers are connected to printers.

It seems the Common Core Accelerated Reading books have an agenda attached to them. Other books he has read have dealt with animal rights and race issues.

Since school resumed after the Christmas break, our grandson worked on spelling and had one spelling test. Virtually no homework. We still have not seen any completed AR tests. As far as we know, there was no discussion for Kansas Day. There was a field trip taken that no information sent home except what was told to us by our grandson and no permission slip for this field trip. We found out about it the evening before the trip. It is disheartening that parents/caretakers are excluded from the school information loop.

This school year (2014-2015), our grandson, 7th grader now, has not brought home completed school work or tests. Report cards are sent in emails as well as daily grade updates. As with last year, if his grades need improvement on tests, especially Accelerated Reading, we have no access to the problem since completed tests and work are not sent home. No school or reading books are brought home to read or study. Parents are completely left out of the loop. As grandparents with his schooling responsibility, it is difficult to just pop over to the school to visit living in the country away from the school. I have been open to the faculty regarding my position on Common Core and it is my observation I have been a thorn in their side to some extent. I don't want to make enemies of our grandson's teachers at his expense. Also, the grandson at this level of schooling, does not want his grandparents showing up and embarrassing him. I understand his feelings on this.

I am writing to urge you to please take action on Common Core. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Sharon Shobney
Delia, Kansas