

# Inquiry Circles *in Elementary Classrooms*

## New Strategies for Comprehension and Collaboration

### Welcome Colleagues,

We are delighted to offer you this new video resource! Shot over two months in Chicago-area public schools, these classroom videos show skillful teachers at work with a diverse range of students. Kids are learning the required curriculum (and then some) through a lively, engaged structure we call inquiry circles. As you watch, you'll see each teacher lead the class through a rich content unit, which we have divided into viewing segments so you can focus on the specific lessons in comprehension, collaboration, and inquiry that happen along the way.



The video is designed as a companion to our book, **Comprehension and Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action**. To us, the ideal use of this resource is in the company of a teacher study group, as colleagues read the book together. This optimizes everyone's chance to examine the ideas in the text, watch them come alive with kids, and try out some of these strategies in the classroom. To help make the video most useful, we match each video segment to specific sections or pages in the book.

The **DVD Viewer's Guide** provides two ways for you to interact around each segment:



**Questions:** short, to-the-point conversation topics that can help focus discussion after each segment.

**Invitations:** deeper suggestions that help you ponder the benefits and challenges of inquiry-based teaching, try things out in your own classroom, and return to the study group to share and weigh the outcomes.

You don't need to have read the book to benefit from watching these teachers and kids at work. You'll see many of the book's explicit lessons happening "live," and watch as students conduct research, monitor their own work, and share their learning. Some people find the video a great place to begin thinking about the move from a conventional to a more student-centered classroom, and then read the book afterward.

However these videos prove useful to you, we hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed creating them.

Cheers,

**Steph and Smokey**



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