

# SMALL-GROUP PROJECTS THAT WORK

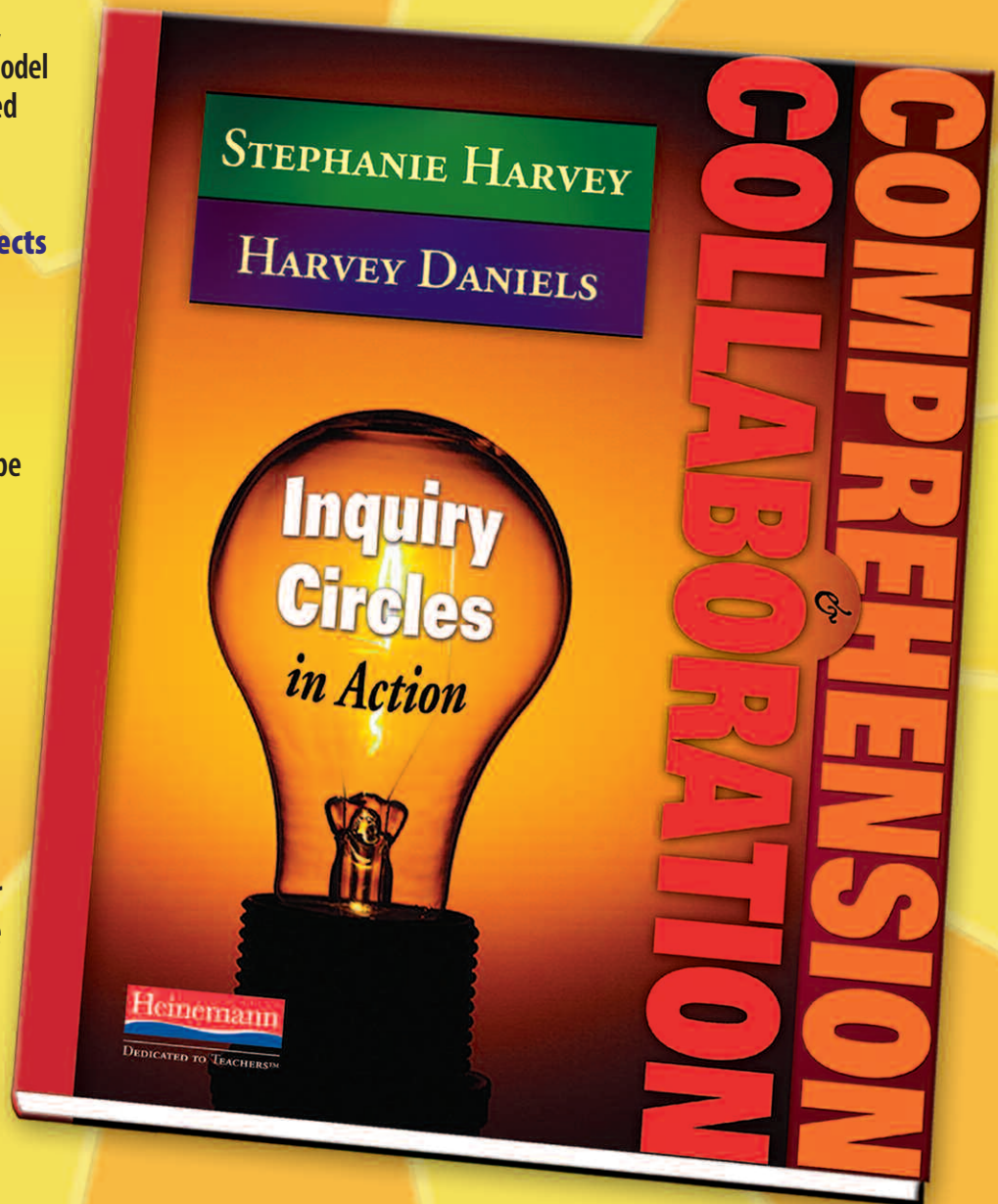
**27** lessons in comprehension, collaboration, and inquiry model the strategies students need to work and learn together

**17** small-group inquiry projects in action bring strategies and principles to life

**9** guiding principles describe how to create a culture of collaborative inquiry

**4** types of inquiry circles are profiled with complete how-to instructions

**1** comprehensive guide for teachers who want to realize the benefits of collaborative, small-group projects



*a collaboration beyond comprehension*

**STEPHANIE HARVEY**

AUTHOR OF *Strategies That Work* AND *The Comprehension Toolkit* SERIES

**HARVEY "SMOKEY" DANIELS**

AUTHOR OF *Literature Circles* AND *Mini-Lessons for Literature Circles*

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# COMPREHENSION & COLLABORATION

## Inquiry Circles in Action

*“This book is about small-group projects that work. It’s about combining what we know about the research process, about thinking, and about people working together, to create a structure that consistently supports kids to build knowledge that matters in their lives.”*

—Stephanie Harvey AND Harvey “Smokey” Daniels

### Inquiry Circles: Structures for Success

While the tradition and benefits of collaborative, inquiry-based learning are well established, school structures and our own lack of confidence can conspire against our best intentions to teach through small-group projects. *Comprehension & Collaboration* was written with these hurdles in mind. To help teachers make the most of these opportunities, *Comprehension & Collaboration* outlines the specific skills, strategies, tools, and roles that make inquiry circles “doable.”

After chronicling the research and teaching practices behind comprehension instruction and classroom collaboration, *Comprehension & Collaboration* describes the nine fundamental classroom conditions needed for active small-group learning. These guiding principles range from how to set up your learning space to “living with big ideas in mind.” This repertoire of management tools creates a culture of collaborative inquiry where students can consistently and effectively work with each other and build knowledge that matters in their lives.

Building on this foundation, 27 practical, adaptable lessons model the social strategies needed for this type of learning. Through lessons on comprehension, collaboration and inquiry, students apply the skills they will need to think together, and to read, write, listen, and view as a team.

In addition, 17 small-group inquiry projects in action bring these strategies and principles to life. Interspersed throughout the chapters, and on a related web site, these profiles provide how-to instructions for 4 types of inquiry circles and offer concrete examples of how to implement inquiry-based, cross-curricular investigations. Drawn from a range of K–12 classrooms, these inquiry projects model the roles all the stakeholders play in inquiry learning and show different ways that teachers have artfully adapted the basic inquiry model to their own situations, styles, and students.

*Comprehension & Collaboration* is a guide for teachers who want to realize the benefits of collaborative, small-group projects and provides the structures you will need to support inquiry circles in your classroom.

#### Attention Literacy Coaches

An accompanying study guide makes *Comprehension & Collaboration* ideal for professional development literature circles.

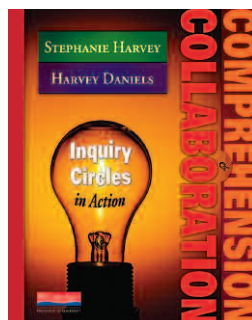
Podcasts from Steph and Smokey will support your professional development efforts. See [Heinemann.com](http://Heinemann.com) for more information.

### What is *Comprehension & Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action*?

*Comprehension & Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action* is about small-group projects that work and serves as a guide for teachers who want to realize the benefits of well-structured, student-led, cross-curricular projects. In this book, Steph and Smokey:

- lay the foundation for inquiry circles by chronicling the current research and practices behind comprehension instruction and classroom collaboration
- explain 9 fundamental classroom conditions needed for active, small-group learning
- provide 27 practical lessons in comprehension, collaboration, and research
- offer how-to instructions for 4 types of inquiry circles—mini-research projects; curricular inquiries; extensions of literature circles; and open inquiry projects
- address characteristic management concerns such as how to use the Internet for research and how to assess and monitor student achievement.

Throughout, chapters offer a mix of materials for you to grab and go as well as some big ideas to think through as you customize inquiry circles for your students. It is time for another stronger, more intentional era of education. *Comprehension & Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action* will serve as your companion and provide a guiding light on this important endeavor.



#### ORDER TODAY!

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