

# HAIGHTS CROSS COMMUNICATIONS PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SUNDANCE PUBLISHING INTRODUCES READING POWERWORKS™**

Northborough, MA, October 29, 2003 – Sundance Publishing, a leading PreK-6+ publisher and a wholly owned Hights Cross Communications, Inc. business, has introduced **Reading PowerWorks™**, an easy-to-implement program for grades 1–2 that employs the dynamic and familiar teaching tools of balanced reading to engage all students. Built around national and state standards in science, social studies, and math, each PowerPack theme unit comes ready to teach with materials for Shared Reading, Guided Reading, and Independent Reading.

Sundance said that two unique features of this new program are the inclusion of trade books and guided reading books at differentiated reading stages—all matched to a standards-based theme.

Each PowerPack theme unit features a read-aloud trade book to introduce the standards-based theme; a nonfiction shared reading Big Book to introduce nonfiction text elements and content vocabulary; nonfiction/fiction PowerPairs for guided reading in three reading stages; a trade-book library for independent reading; and a teacher resource book with lesson plans, assessment, and home connections.

With all the emphasis in recent years on nonfiction, educators welcome the inclusion of authentic literature in each Reading PowerWorks PowerPack theme unit. Children and teachers alike delight at having a read-aloud trade book by an author they love and trust to introduce the theme topic and prepare them for the core of the theme, the nonfiction Big Book. At the end of the unit, the trade book library—three nonfiction and three fiction titles—further extends both the learning and the fun.

The differentiated reading stages of the guided reading PowerPairs provide another powerful tool for the elementary teacher. The **Reading PowerWorks™** PowerPack theme units each include three paired nonfiction and fiction guided reading PowerPairs, one each for the Emergent, Transition, and Fluent reading stages. The PowerPairs each cover a different aspect of the overall PowerPack.

**Reading PowerWorks™** currently consists of six PowerPack theme units—two science themes, two social studies themes, and two math themes. Nine more PowerPack theme units are scheduled to arrive in January 2004. The current set of PowerPack theme units includes Life Science: *How Plants Adapt*, Earth Science: *How the Earth Changes*, Geography: *Using Maps*, History: *Past and Present*, Measurement: *How and Why We Measure Things*, and Geometry: *Two- and Three-Dimensional Shapes*.

For more information on **Reading Power Works™**, call Sundance Publishing at (800) 343-8204, write P.O. Box 740, Northborough, MA 01532-0740, visit us online at [www.sundancepub.com](http://www.sundancepub.com), or send an e-mail note to [info@sundancepub.com](mailto:info@sundancepub.com). For **Reading Power Works™** review copies, please contact Chris Lockhardt at 877-888-2969, ext. 768, or [clockhardt@sundancepub.com](mailto:clockhardt@sundancepub.com).

#### **About Sundance Publishing:**

Sundance Publishing is a well-established publisher of PreK–6+ reading instructional materials and books for below-level readers in middle and high school. Sundance Publishing also publishes and distributes K–12 paperbacks, literature-based media, and teacher resources. For more information, visit [www.sundancepub.com](http://www.sundancepub.com).

#### **About Hights Cross Communications:**

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross Communications is a premier educational and library publisher dedicated to creating the finest books, audio products, periodicals, software and online services, serving the following markets: K-12 supplemental education, public and school library publishing, audiobooks, and medical continuing education **publishing**. Hights Cross companies include:

Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), Chelsea House Publishers (Broomall, PA), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). Hights Cross investors include Great Hill Partners and CSFB (formerly DLJ Merchant Banking Partners, L.P.) For more information visit [www.hightscross.com](http://www.hightscross.com).

Safe Harbor Statement: This press release contains forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “expect,” “plan,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “potential” and similar expressions intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are based on assumptions and subject to risks and uncertainties. These risks, uncertainties and other factors may cause our actual results, performances or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause our actual results to differ materially from our forward-looking statements include, among others, changes in external market factors, changes in our business or growth strategy, or an inability to execute our strategy due to changes in our industry or the economy generally, the emergence of new or growing competitors and various other competitive factors. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the events and circumstances described in forward-looking statements contained in this press release will in fact occur. You should read this press release completely and with the understanding that our actual results may be materially different from what we expect. We will not update these forward-looking statements, even though our situation may change in the future. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements.

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