

SUNDANCE/NEWBRIDGE **PRESS RELEASE**

Editorial Contact:
Michael Stugrin
(562) 498-6353
mstugrin@verizon.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNDANCE PUBLISHING EXPANDS “COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES KIT” PROGRAM FOR RAISING READING ACHIEVEMENT

New Kits Continue Focus on Six Research-Proven Comprehension Strategies; Internationally Known Reading Expert Dr. Linda Gambrell is Co-Author

Northborough, MA, February 29, 2008 – Sundance Publishing, a leading publisher of instructional materials for the PreK–8 market and a Houghton Mifflin Harcourt company, has announced a major expansion of its award-winning Comprehension Strategies Kit. The program’s authors are Dr. Linda Gambrell, Professor of Education at Clemson University, and Dr. Robert Wortman, Adjunct Associate Professor of Language, Reading, and Culture at the University of Arizona. The new fiction and nonfiction kits are for Grades 1-2+ and will be available in March.

“Our Comprehension Strategies Kit program, which won the *Learning*[®] Magazine 2008 Teachers’ ChoiceSM for the Classroom Award, has been very well received by elementary reading teachers and curriculum experts, so much so that our customers asked us to expand the program to offer a complete elementary school 1-5+ solution,” said Paul Konowitch, Sundance President and CEO. “The program’s objective is to help students become strategic, independent readers. The program is based on findings of the National Reading Panel and supported by the latest reading research. The kit features highly visual, interactive instructional materials and exciting reading content.”

Comprehension Strategies Kit materials are focused on helping students develop the six comprehension strategies -- monitor and clarify, make connections, visualize, ask questions, infer and predict, and summarize. The kits, which are for Grades 1-5+, incorporate fiction and nonfiction leveled text for differentiated instruction. All five levels give teachers the interactive classroom materials and instructional support they need to teach comprehension easily and effectively.

Each complete Comprehension Strategies Kit includes:

- Modeling Transparencies – 36 fiction and nonfiction transparencies to introduce and model each of the six comprehension strategies.
- Interactive Practice Cards – 12 student cards to provide hands-on, guided strategy practice. 12 copies of each fiction and nonfiction card (144 total), plus a set of erasable markers.
- Leveled Student Selections – 36 fiction and nonfiction selections for below-, on-, and above-level readers to practice and apply the strategies independently (6 copies of each selection).
- Teacher’s Guides – provide comprehensive support for teaching and assessing each strategy.

- Resource CD –formative and summative assessments to inform teaching and measure growth, 12 take-home readers for independent reading, family letters in multiple languages to foster home/school instruction.
- Strategy Posters – a set of colorful posters with strategy checklists to hang in the classroom.

Dr. Linda Gambrell, program co-author, is Professor of Education at Clemson University and 2007-08 President of the International Reading Association. She is also former Associate Dean for Research at the University of Maryland. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher and reading specialist in Prince George's County, Maryland. From 1992-97, she was principal investigator at the National Reading Research Center where she directed the Literacy Motivation Project. She has written books on reading instruction and published over 100 book chapters and articles. Dr. Gambrell earned B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park.

About Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing: Sundance Publishing is a leading publisher of PreK–8 reading instructional materials and books for below-level readers in middle and high school. Newbridge Educational Publishing is one of the nation's leading publishers of supplemental materials for teachers of PreK–8. Newbridge is the largest publisher of nonfiction photo big books across the curriculum and is a leader in nonfiction guided reading in the content areas of social studies, science, and math.

About Hights Cross Communications:

Founded in 1997 and based in White Plains, NY, Hights Cross is a leading developer and publisher of products for the kindergarten through twelfth grade, or K-12, supplemental education, library, and medical education markets. Hights Cross imprints include: Sundance/Newbridge Educational Publishing (Northborough, MA), Triumph Learning (New York, NY), Buckle Down Publishing, and Options Publishing (Iowa City, IA), , Recorded Books (Prince Frederick, MD), and Oakstone Publishing (Birmingham, AL). For more information visit www.hightscross.com.

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