Instead of moving at full speed toward implementation without an understanding of the changes that the standards require, it is important to focus on a few shifts that have the most significant effect on students.

—Sandra Alberti, p. 24

The Common Core initiative assumes that teachers are ultimately teaching students to think—the most difficult and important literacy skill of all.

—Laura Billings and Terry Roberts, p. 68

The Common Core movement is not a reversal of NCLB, but the next step on a journey toward close, critical reading and powerful writing.

—Elfrieda H. Hiebert and P. David Pearson, p. 48

The fact that the Common Core State Standards have been adopted by so many states opens the door for cross-state partnerships that could not have taken place when each state developed its own standards.

—Robert Rothman, p. 18

Many math teachers believe that the new standards may require them to add new topics to their curriculum. Rather, the Common Core standards call for greater focus at each grade level on fewer topics.

—William H. Schmidt and Nathan A. Burroughs, p. 54

Teachers and students should expect to see more challenging reading materials on the new assessments as well as more complex, real-world tasks.

—Nancy A. Doorey, p. 28