



## Classrooms of Wonder and Wisdom: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking for the 21st Century

*By Kurtis S. Meredith, Jeannie L. Steele*

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The award-winning authors guide readers through this action-oriented handbook. Their highly successful literacy-based professional development program outlines strategies for helping students become lifelong learners.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

*"This book provides strategies that are varied and vital for student success, especially as critical thinkers."*  
(Tamara Rhone, Secondary Social Studies Educator 2010-05-28)

*"I wish this text were available today?I could really use it in the Center of Excellence I direct! In fact, I really could have used it a year and a half ago?it would have saved me HOURS of work!"* (Victoria Ridgeway Gillis, Professor 2010-05-28)

*"The author's excellent exercises and examples effectively illustrate the application of the instructional strategies. These examples are at the heart of the text and are the major reason it will be successful in improving classroom instruction."* (Connie Harris, Gifted Language Arts Teacher 2010-05-28)

*"An excellent resource filled with useful strategies and approaches for creating student-centered learning through reading and writing."* (Eric A. Combs, Teacher 2010-05-28)

*"Jeannie Steele and Kurt Meredith illuminate theoretical ideas with insightful, practical ways for teachers to encourage students to develop the critical and creative thinking necessary in a flourishing democratic society."* (Angela Ward, Acting Associate Dean 2010-06-23)

*"The authors bring their extraordinary experience to the task of masterfully suggesting powerful ways to effectively address the question of how we can best prepare students for life in the twenty-first century and bring about lasting change. They share a wealth of ideas for effective learning experiences in a range of professional development settings."* (Adria Klein, Professor Emeritus 2010-07-12)

#### About the Author

**Kurt Meredith** is presently serving as Interim assistant provost for international programs at the University of Northern Iowa. He is also an associate professor in Literacy Education. He is internationally known for his work in school restructuring and democratic educational practices. Along with Jeannie Steele, Meredith co-founded the Orava Association for Democratic Education, the largest self-governing NGO in the Republic of Slovakia and is dedicated to the professional development of teachers. While living in Slovakia he received the Order of St. Gorazd, the highest civilian award for meritorious service to Slovak education. He also received UNESCO recognition as co-author of the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking program (RWCT) as one of 25 practices world-wide recommended for crisis prevention and peace building.

Jeannie Steele is a professor of literacy education at the University of Northern Iowa where she was awarded the Iowa Board of Regents Award for faculty excellence. Formerly a classroom teacher for over 20 years, she then served as consultant for educational reform for school districts in the U.S and is Past President of the Virginia State Reading Association. She received a Ph.D. from The University of Virginia in 1985. In more recent years, Jeannie has worked on international educational reform and is internationally respected for her work in teacher professional development. Along with Kurt Meredith, she co-founded the Orava Association for Democratic Education, the largest self-governing NGO in the Republic of Slovakia and is dedicated to the professional development of teachers. While living in Slovakia, she received the Order of St. Gorazd, the highest civilian award for meritorious service to Slovak education. She also received UNESCO recognition as co-author of the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking (RWCT) as one of 25 practices

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