



Upstanders: How to Engage Middle School Hearts and Minds with Inquiry

By Harvey "Smokey" Daniels, Sara Ahmed

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For all things Upstanders-including chapter-by-chapter sneak previews, blog posts from Smokey and Sara, videos of Sara's classroom and of them talking about the book, and more-visit Heinemann.com/Upstanders.

*"Upstanders is about helping young people question the world, build knowledge, become skilled researchers, and communicate thoughtfully-in the service of humanity, not just themselves." **Harvey "Smokey" Daniels and Sara Ahmed***

How can we meet today's elevated academic goals and engage middle school kids-but not simply replicate our competitive, winner-take-all society? How can our students achieve an even higher standard-demonstrating the capacity and the commitment to bend the world toward justice?

In a word, inquiry.

Welcome to the classroom of Sara Ahmed. With Smokey Daniels as your guide you'll see exactly how Sara uses inquiry to turn required curricular topics into questions so fascinating that young adolescents can't resist investigating them. Units so engaging that they provide all the complexity the standards could ever expect, while helping students grow from bystanders to Upstanders.

Smokey and Sara describe precisely how to create, manage, and sustain a classroom built around choice, small-group collaboration, and critical thinking. You'll be inspired by what Sara's students accomplish, but you'll also come away from *Upstanders* with a can-do plan for teaching your own classes thanks to:

- a developmental look at what makes middle school kids special, challenging, and fun
- specific lessons that develop collaboration, self-awareness, and compassion
- a toolbox filled with teaching strategies, structures, tools, and handouts
- "Point-Outs" from Smokey that highlight key teaching moves

- "Game-Time Decisions" from Sara that reveal in-the-moment instructional choices
- narratives that document the incredible work that inquiry allows kids to do
- ambitious, engaging, and important units on commonly taught middle school themes.

What kind of classroom do we want for our middle schoolers? How about one that develops the skills the standards demand and prepares kids to take action in the world right now? We can do it-if we help kids become *Upstanders*.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Harvey "Smokey" Daniels has been a city and suburban classroom teacher and a college professor, and now works as a national consultant and author on literacy education. In language arts, Smokey is known for his pioneering work on student book clubs, as recounted in *Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Groups*, and *Minilessons for Literature Circles*. His latest bestselling books on content-area literacy are *The Curious Classroom*; *Comprehension & Collaboration, Second Edition*; *Upstanders*; *Subjects Matter, Second Edition*; the *Texts and Lessons* series; and *Content-Area Writing*. He is also coauthor of *Best Practice, Fourth Edition*, and *The Best Practice Video Companion* as well as editor of *Comprehension Going Forward*. Smokey works with elementary and secondary teachers throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, offering demonstration lessons, workshops, and consulting, with a special focus on creating, sustaining, and renewing student-centered inquiries and discussions of all kinds. Smokey shows colleagues how to simultaneously build students' reading strategies, balance their reading diets, and strengthen the social skills they need to become genuine lifelong readers. Connect with Smokey @smokeylit. **READING** *Comprehension Going Forward* *Mini-lessons for Literature Circles* *Subjects Matter, Second Edition* *Texts and Lessons for Content-Area Reading* *Texts and Lessons for Teaching Literature* **WRITING** *Community of Writers* *Content-Area Writing* **LITERACY** *The Curious Classroom* *Comprehension & Collaboration, Second Edition* *Inquiry Circles for Elementary Classrooms* *Inquiry Circles for Secondary Classrooms* **SCHOOL CULTURE** *Best Practice, Fourth Edition* *Best Practice Video Companion* *Rethinking High School* *Rethinking High School Video* *Upstanders*

Sara Ahmed has taught in urban, suburban, public, independent, and international schools. Sara is coauthor with Harvey "Smokey" Daniels of *Upstanders: How to Engage Middle School Hearts and Minds with Inquiry*. Sara's classrooms are designed to help her young adolescent students to consider their own identities and to take action in the world in socially responsible ways. She is a long time member of the teacher leadership team for *Facing History and Ourselves*, an international organization devoted to developing critical thinking and empathy for others. Sara will be spending the 2016-2017 school year at NIST International School in Bangkok, Thailand as a PreK-6 Literacy Coach.

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