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"As a third grade teacher for over 20 years, I have been asked to implement the Common Core Curriculum during the past three years. Here is what I have noticed/experienced:

Overall Con: The Common Core Curriculum often asks students to perform beyond their developmental age. For instance, inference in reading comprehension is often complex and should occur over time not forced into discreet lessons which may frustrate and turn students "off" to reading. The same can be found in math when students are asked to navigate through story problems/situations that are multi-layered and can be confusing to students new to analysis.

Math Pro: Our school has implemented The Story of Units for math from engageny. This curriculum has encouraged deep thinking, revision, and creativity.

Math Con: The NYS Third Grade Math assessment has caused stress to students and parents. We have seen an increase in anxiety among our entering third graders as they worry about doing well. We find that students need constant reassurance that they are doing fine and will be able to learn the challenging Common Core math curriculum over time.

ELA Pro: Our ELA curriculum (LitLife) encourages probing conversations around readings. Implemented over time and allowing for students developmental levels, these conversations are beginning to show results in the way students respond to texts.

ELA Con: Students are often asked to probe reading material that is beyond their life experience. A reading level does not necessarily correlate with a student's comprehension level if the student is not engaged in the content.

ELA Con: Students are often asked to respond in writing at a level that is challenging beyond their life experience. This forces teachers to teach student "format" responses which do not deepen thinking but encourage formulaic, rote responses.

ELA Con: We have also noticed a rise in anxiety when students answer questions about texts. Again, we need to encourage students that their thinking is what is important not the "right" answer.

Thank you for considering some of my thoughts about the implementation of The Common Core Curriculum."