

**Heidi Dvornski, Teacher, NYSUT/Frontier Central Teachers' Association**

"In my 13 years of teaching 5th grade, I have watched children reach potential they never believed possible. They have loved learning and enjoyed the art and complexity of reading, writing and exploring math. In the last 3 years I have seen this love shift to dread, frustration and feelings of failure. While there is a need to raise the bar for our children, the current standards are often age inappropriate and do not meet the needs of our special education students. The standardized testing tied to Common Core is an example of trickery and since this one tiny piece of learning evidence weighs so heavily on a teachers livelihood, many are spending excessive amounts of time teaching to a test they do not believe in to make sure they can feed their family for another year."