

Grades K-2
Writer's Workshop
Units of Study

Unit 1: Launching the Writer's Workshop-

In this Unit of Study, teachers and writers work to establish consistent routines and procedures so that writers approach their writing with new rigor and independence.

In this Unit of Study, writers will be able to:

- write independently with volume and stamina.
- demonstrate the use of multiple strategies for generating seed ideas.
- work through each step in the writing process; gathering seed ideas, drafting, revising, editing and publishing.
- story tell in partnerships to elaborate on details.
- use Foundations strategies, word walls and personal dictionaries to spell words.
- view themselves as authors who have voices that should be heard.
- generate ideas for true stories.
- demonstrate good writing habits, including the importance of rereading and monitoring for sense.

Unit 2: Writing Personal Narratives (Small Moments)

In this unit, children will see themselves as authors, valuing tiny moments from their lives. Writers will hold these moments in their minds and hearts, then make stories out of them; stories stretch across a sequence of several pages.

In this Unit of Study, writers will be able to:

- generate multiple seed ideas using their repertoire of strategies.
- identify qualities of a good narrative in the mentor texts the teacher uses to teach the unit.
- utilize storytelling as another strategy to rehearse writing.
- utilize writing partners to push their thinking and clarify their thoughts.

- demonstrate qualities of good writing including detail, dialogue, setting, sequence, leads, and answers to the reader's questions.
- stay focused on one moment rather than a series or collage of moments.

Unit 3: Writing for Readers- Thinking about Spelling, Conventions and the Sound of our Writing within Narrative Writing

In Unit 3, writers will write focused narratives, using what they have learned from unit 2 to cycle through the process of writing. They will draft and revise at least half a dozen true stories. The spotlight of this unit will be on conventions.

In this Unit of Study, writers will be able to:

- develop the habit of rereading their writing, reading their pictures, and reading their labels and sentences, often stopping and thinking to themselves, "How can I make this writing easier for others to read?"
- write with more conventional spelling.
- pay close attention to their handwriting, spaces between words, punctuation and spelling.
- continue to use Foundation strategies to phonetically spell words and form letters.
- apply proper punctuation to their stories.

Unit 4: Authors as Mentors

The Author as Mentor unit teaches writers that they can become better by studying authors they love. They can notice small things a writer does, such as the way a writer uses sounds, or they may notice big things, like how writers write about feelings and family relationships. Writers can choose authors they like, to use as mentors, whenever they write.

In this Unit of Study, writers will be able to:

- study authors to enhance their own writing skills.
- pay close attention to the hundreds of rich moments that happen each day, realizing that each could be a "seed" for their next story.

- choose mentor texts to get ideas for revisions, noticing sections that particularly affect them and then examining the text closely in order to think, "What has the author done to create this effect?"
- utilize a mentor author's books to marvel over the way your mentor author chooses and stretches out one small moment, instead of running from moment to moment.
- observe how their mentor author uses punctuation to grow suspense (ellipses, dash marks or commas), or inserts detailed lists to give readers a clear picture in their minds, or uses short sentences to convey fast actions.

Unit 5: Nonfiction Writing: How-To and All-About Books

This unit starts with writers getting the experience to teach the reader all-about a topic, in which case the writing is informational, or they can teach people how to do something, in which case the writing is procedural. In this unit we invite children to become not only writers but teachers. We show them how, by drawing and writing a sequence of steps they hope the reader will take, they can use writing to teach others how to do something.

In this Unit of Study, writers will be able to:

- write with explicitness, precision, clarity, and sequencing.
- think and write in a way that anticipates exactly what the reader will need to know to successfully accomplish a particular task.
- organize their thinking and convey timing.
- use very specific language to clarify their thinking and instructions.
- use precise language and broken-apart actions to consider audience.
- utilize nonfiction How-To texts as a guide for revising and adding features of nonfiction to their own writing.