

First Grade

Unit 1

Reading: Building Good Reading Habits	Writing: Small Moments (Narrative Writing)	Phonics: Talking and Thinking About Letters
<p>This unit teaches students to draw on all the good habits they learned in kindergarten to preview books and to get unstuck as they read. Students will also learn procedures for participating in their new classroom community, reading independently, and working with partners. This unit also capitalizes on student reading knowledge- orientation strategies, knowledge of letter-sound correspondence, comprehension, and fluency.</p>	<p>This first unit is designed to help your students work with independence, confidence, and stamina. Routines and procedures will be taught and reviewed. In this unit, students take the everyday events of their young lives and make them into focused, well-structured stories, then they learn to breathe life into the characters by making them talk, think, and interact.</p>	<p>To start, this unit provides cumulative review and reinforcement for key concepts in phonics that students encountered in kindergarten. The unit reviews all the most important phonics concepts from kindergarten: letter names and sounds, short vowels in CVC words, phonograms, blends, and digraphs, and a short list of approximately fifty high-frequency and high-utility words.</p>

Unit 2

Reading: Word Detectives	Writing: Nonfiction Chapter Books (Information Writing)	Phonics: The Mystery of the Silent e
<p>This unit aims to tap into the power of play. Children will become word detectives-in-training, learning that, like a detective, readers are always on the alert for problems and trouble and need to do something to solve them. They will also focus on high-frequency words and use them to solve unknown words.</p>	<p>In this unit, students enter the world of informational writing as they combine pictures and charts with expert topic specific vocabulary and craft moves to create engaging teaching texts.</p>	<p>This unit challenges children to use phonics workshop as a place to study words closely - like a piece of evidence - and make discoveries to help them understand how language works. In the first bend, this investigation will focus entirely on CVCe words with the vowel A. Across the first part of the unit, students learn a new set of high-frequency words. Then, student word detectives investigate CVCe words with a different vowel each day. Finally, the focus shifts to looking closely at words and word parts to decode difficult words by breaking them into parts and putting those parts back together.</p>

Unit 3

Reading: Learning About the World	Writing: Writing Reviews (Opinion Writing)	Phonics: From Tip to Tail
<p>This unit aims to introduce students to nonfiction texts, to be able to read about and learn about things in our world. Children learn strategies to get smart on nonfiction topics as well as comprehension strategies such as previewing, predicting, noticing text structures, and synthesizing information from multiple sources (the picture, the print, the text boxes).</p>	<p>This unit begins by teaching students that writing can give them a way to make and defend decisions and opinions, such as, “Which is my best baseball cap? Beanie Baby?” or, Which wins the booby prize for being the worst? In this unit, students create persuasive reviews of all sorts—TV show reviews, ice cream flavor reviews, and finally book reviews that hook the reader, clearly express the writer’s opinion, and bolster their argument in convincing ways.</p>	<p>In this unit, students read nonfiction closely and thoughtfully. Readers learn to track all the way across words, with a special focus on recognizing blends and digraphs. Young readers learn to orient themselves to a page by noticing high-frequency words, and using these to help them solve additional words. The unit wraps up with a big, celebratory tournament of word games!</p>

Unit 4

Reading: Readers Have Big Jobs to Do	Writing: From Scenes to Series (Narrative Writing)	Phonics: Word Builders
<p>This unit sets children up to be able to read increasingly complex texts with accuracy, comprehension, and fluency—all of which require the development of great problem solving skills.</p>	<p>This final unit is designed to teach your students how to storytell and plan stories. Students will learn that characters in stories face problems, overcome these (with help from others or on their own), and then develop solutions. Students learn to “show, not tell” and use action, dialogue, and feelings to create a whole series of fiction books modeled after some of our first grade read alouds.</p>	<p>You’ll launch this unit by introducing the theme of becoming word builders. Using snap cubes with word parts, children will get to work constructing words, and challenge themselves to build longer, bigger words. Alongside your teaching about vowel teams in this first bend, you’ll also introduce a new set of high-frequency words. Bend II tackles a whole different group of vowel teams, ones that need to be explicitly taught. Bend III focuses on less common vowel teams. The unit ends with a celebration where you’ll reveal a big plan to build a whole town made out of words—Vowel Town!</p>

Unit 5

Reading: Meeting Characters and learning Lessons	Writing: From Scenes to Series (Narrative Writing)	Phonics: Marvelous Bloopers
<p>After a sequence of units that focused tightly on the reading processes—on cross checking and integrating multiple sources of meaning and on reading across the word—this last unit that helps kids experience the power of story. This unit helps students begin to understand literal and inferential comprehension. Students learn to make predictions, determine importance, and to use text details to grow ideas about characters</p>	<p>This final unit is designed to teach your students how to story tell and plan stories. Students will learn that characters in stories face problems, overcome these (with help from others or on their own), and then develop solutions. Students learn to “show, not tell” and use action, dialogue, and feelings to create a whole series of fiction books modeled after some of our first grade read alouds.</p>	<p>This unit has been designed to help you teach an assortment of topics that the first grade curriculum hasn't yet addressed and that deserve attention before the year is over: r-controlled vowels, high frequency words, capitalization... The ellipses in that sentence are important because this unit, like the final unit in kindergarten, is deliberately designed so that it will set you up to continue teaching other assorted topics if you have more time in your school year and if your students are game to learn yet other topics: prefixes, contractions, punctuation.</p>