

# Third Grade

## Unit 1

<b>Reading: Building a Reading Life</b>	<b>Writing: Crafting True Stories</b>
<p>In this unit, students learn how to create a "reading life" by finding cozy reading spots, setting goals, and reading in the company of partners. They also hone their basic comprehension skills such as envisioning, predicting, and retelling. Finally, they tackle more challenging texts by learning strategies to figure out hard words, make sense of figurative language, and consider the author's purpose.</p>	<p>The first unit of the year takes students through the writing process on a fiction piece of writing. Students learn to generate ideas for stories by thinking about the people, places and things that hold significance. They also learn and experiment with the sophisticated writing moves of famous writers such as writing in a storytelling voice (with dialogue and small actions), trying different leads to start their story in a way that hooks the reader, and developing the "heart," or most important part, of their story. Finally, students work on conventions to "fancy up" their writing.</p>

## Unit 2

<b>Reading: Mystery</b>	<b>Writing: Crafting True Stories</b>
<p>In this unit, students work in a book club to learn the basic elements of a mystery - the mystery, crimesolver, suspects, and clues. They also work to gather suspect motives and locate "red herrings" (misleading clues). Finally, students learn how reading mysteries can actually help them read any kind of fiction story.</p>	<p>The first unit of the year takes students through the writing process on a fiction piece of writing. Students learn to generate ideas for stories by thinking about the people, places and things that hold significance. They also learn and experiment with the sophisticated writing moves of famous writers such as writing in a storytelling voice (with dialogue and small actions), trying different leads to start their story in a way that hooks the reader, and developing the "heart," or most important part, of their story. Finally, students work on conventions to "fancy up" their writing.</p>

## Unit 3

<b>Reading: Reading to Learn (nonfiction)</b>	<b>Writing: The Art of Information Writing</b>
<p>In this unit, students learn the characteristics and structure of nonfiction texts. They also learn how to grasp the main ideas and supporting details of a text. Finally, students learn about the narrative nonfiction genre, including biographies.</p>	<p>In this unit, students will draw on topics they already know a lot about and write with the purpose of teaching others. Students will create a table of contents to categorize their nonfiction writing and rehearse various organizational text structures before drafting. They will study mentors to search for ways to elaborate in their writing, and use text features to enhance their information writing.</p>

## Unit 4

<b>Reading: Character Studies</b>	<b>Writing: Changing the World (persuasive)</b>
<p>In this unit, students work in book clubs to study the characters in their books in sophisticated ways - they determine character traits by analyzing patterns in behavior, they put traits together to develop theories about the main character, they predict what the character will do based on theories developed, they determine character motivations, and they learn life lessons alongside their characters. Students also learn how to track the character's journey by paying attention to fiction text structure and the role of secondary characters. Finally, students learn to compare and contrast characters across books with regard to their traits, problems they face, and lessons learned.</p>	<p>In this unit, students learn the art of persuasion through writing. Students determine a topic they feel passionate about, and create a big, bold opinion/claim about that topic. Some kid-friendly persuasion topics include: recycling, later bedtimes, hoverboards, and new food options in the cafeteria. Third grade writers then work to support their claim with reasons and examples to convince the reader.</p>

## Unit 5

<b>Reading: Research Clubs</b>	<b>Writing: Once Upon a Time</b>
<p>In this nonfiction book club unit, students learn to research a topic across multiple sources with a group of their peers. They learn to synthesize information across texts, attend to text structure to determine what information is most important, and grow big ideas about the topics they study.</p>	<p>The focus of this unit is fairy tale writing. Students begin by reading and studying classic fairy tales before drafting their own adaptations of these tales. Students are taken through the writing process where they draft, revise, and edit their work before sharing it with peers.</p>