THE
Reading & Writing Project
AT MOSSFLOWER

Units of Study in Reading, Grades 3-5
Pilot Trade Books

Grades 3

Unit 1

Emma McKenna, Full Out by Kate Messner
The Legend of Memo Castillo by William Alexander

Unit 2

The Forest Keeper: The True Story of Jadav Payeng by Rina Singh
Plants in Different Habitats by Bobbie Kalman
Pretty Tricky: The Sneaky Ways Plants Survive by Etta Kaner
Redwoods by Jason Chin

Unit 3

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Cannonball by Sacha Cotter
Watercress by Andrea Wang
The Forest Keeper: The True Story of Jadav Payeng by Rina Singh

Unit 4

Great Migrations: Whales by Laura Marsh
The Whale Who Swam Through Time: A 200-Year Journey in the Arctic by Alex Boersma and Nick Pyenson
The Book of Turtles by Sy Montgomery and Matt Patterson
Yoshi, Sea Turtle Genius: A True Story about an Amazing Swimmer by Lynne Cox

Unit 5

West Meadow Detectives: The Case of the Snack Snatcher by Liam O'Donnell
West Meadow Detectives: The Case of Maker Mischief by Liam O'Donnell
Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Marshmallow Tower by Eric Sobol

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Grades 4

Unit 1

Save Me a Seat by Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks
Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Peña
Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan

Unit 2

Icebergs and Glaciers by Seymour Simon
Nature is a Sculptor: Weathering and Erosion by Heather Ferranti Kinser
Ocean Speaks: How Marie Tharp Revealed the Ocean's Biggest Secret by Jess Keating
Exploring Weathering and Erosion by Marie Rogers

Unit 3

Fox by Margaret Wild
The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad
Carmela Full of Wishes by Matt de la Peña
You Are Here: Connecting Flights edited by Ellen Oh
Charlotte's Web, the 2006 film, directed by Gary Winick
Charlotte's Web, the full-length play, adapted by Joseph Robinette

Unit 4

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey
Ocean Speaks: How Marie Tharp Revealed the Ocean's Biggest Secret by Jess Keating
My Life with the Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall

Unit 5

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark by Carmen Agra Deedy

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Grades 5

Unit 1

How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor
The Mistakes that Made Us: *Confessions from Twenty Poets* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters

Unit 2

What is a Solar Eclipse? by Dana Meachen Rau
Sky Gazing: A Guide to the Moon, Sun, Planets, Stars, Eclipses, and Constellations by Meg Thacher
Eclipse Chaser: Science in the Moon's Shadow by Ilma Loomis and Shadia Habbal

Unit 3

The Boy Who Thought Outside the Box by Marcie Wessels
Various articles and videos about homework and video games
I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Unit 4

MapMaker by Lisa Moore Ramée

Unit 5

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne by Lesa Cline-Ransome
Old Enough to Save the Planet by Loll Kirby

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Grade 3: Units of Study in Writing
List of Mentor Texts and Suggested Additional Texts/Videos/Articles

The following texts support student learning throughout the Units of Study in Writing, Grade 3. These titles are included with the Units of Study in Writing trade packs for third grade, available at Heinemann.com. Titles with an asterisk (*) can be viewed and printed within the Units of Study in Writing online resources.

Unit 1: *The Art of Information Writing*

- *Deadliest Animals* by Melissa Stewart
- *Skateboards* by Patricia Lakin
- *Soccermania/Futbolmanía* by Juan Pablo Lombana

Unit 2: *Changing the World*

None

Unit 3: *Structuring Episodes: Writing Series Fiction*

- *Little Shaq* by Shaquille O'Neal

Unit 4: *An Introduction to Literary Essays*

- *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca
- *Watercress* by Andrea Wang

The following books/videos/articles are recommended as additional read-alouds and mentor texts to support the writing work in the units. You'll see some of these titles referenced as optional teaching texts in individual sessions.

Unit 1: *The Art of Information Writing*

- *Monarch Butterflies* by Ann Hobbie

Unit 2: *Changing the World*

- Amanda Gorman's 2021 inaugural address poem, "The Hill We Climb"
- *The Big Bed* by Bunmi Laditan
- *Dr. Coo and the Pigeon Protest* by Sarah Hampson
- "The Importance of Diversity in Children's Literature," by Renee Runge (KIDPRESSROOM, 2022) *

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- *Kidstory: 50 Children and Young People Who Shook Up the World* by Tom Adams
- Melati and Isabel Wijsen's speech about their campaign to eliminate plastic bags in Bali
- *The Sophia Series* by Jim Averbeck

Unit 3: *Structuring Episodes: Writing Series Fiction*

- *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Absent Author* by Ron Roy
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

Series Titles

- *The Baby-Sitters Club* by Ann M. Martin
- *Cam Jansen* by David A. Adler
- *The Carver Chronicles* by Karen English
- *Dyamonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes
- *Jasmine Toguchi* by Debbi Michiko Florence
- *Katie Woo* by Fran Manushkin
- *Ling and Ting* by Grace Lin
- *Lola Levine* by Monica Brown
- *Magic Treehouse* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Miami Jackson* by Patricia and Fredrick McKissack
- *Mo Jackson* by David A. Adler
- *Nikki and Deja* by Karen English
- *Pedro* by Fran Manushkin
- *Ruby and the Booker Boys* by Derrick Barnes
- *Yasmin* by Saadia Faruqi

Unit 4: *An Introduction to Literary Essays*

- *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts
- *The Brilliant Deep* by Kate Messner
- *Building Zaha: The Story of Architect Zaha Hadid* by Victoria Tentler-Krylov
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *Dust Buddies* (search terms "CGI (R) animated short film, Dust Buddies, by Beth Tomashek and Sam Wade," 2016)
- *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae

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Grade 3 Suggested Mentor Texts

- *Hair Love* (search terms "animated short film, Hair Love, by Sony (R) Pictures Animation," 2020)
- *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery* by Sandra Neil Wallace
- *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez*
- *Joy and Heron* (search terms "CGI (R) animated short film, Joy and Heron, by Passion Pictures," 2018)
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña
- *Lou* (search terms "animated short film, Lou - short film by Disney Pixar (R)," 2017)
- *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando* by Andrea Wang
- *The Many Meanings of Meilan* by Andrea Wang
- *Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist by Julie Leung*
- *Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Piper* (search terms "animated short film, Piper - short film by Disney Pixar (R)," 2016)
- *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré, by Anika Aldamuy Denise*
- *Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom* by Teresa Robeson
- *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat* by Javaka Steptoe
- *Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock* by Aslan Tudor

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Grade 4: Units of Study in Writing
List of Mentor Texts and Suggested Trade Book Titles

The following texts support student learning throughout the Units of Study in Writing, Grade 4. These books are included with the Units of Study in Writing trade packs for fourth grade, available at Heinemann.com. title with an asterisk (*) can be viewed and printed within the Units of Study online resources.

Unit 1: *Spinning True Stories into Gold*

- *Big Red Lollipop* by Rukhsana Khan

Unit 2: *Boxes and Bullets: Writing Essays and Arguments*

- None

Unit 3: *Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction*

- *Fox* by Margaret Wild
- *Carmela Full of Wishes* by Matt de la Peña
- *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad

Unit 4: *Discipline-Based Writing*

- *Amazing, Misunderstood Bats* by Marta Magellan
- *All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything* by Annette Bay Pimental

The following books/videos/articles are recommended as additional read-alouds and mentor texts to support the writing work in the units. You'll see some of these titles referenced as optional teaching texts in individual sessions.

Unit 1: *Spinning True Stories into Gold*

- *Tía Isa Wants a Car* by Meg Medina
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- *Kitchen Dance by* Maurie J. Manning
- *Wild Berries* by Julie Flett

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Grade 4 Suggested Mentor Texts

Unit 2: *Boxes and Bullets: Writing Essays and Arguments*

- None

Unit 3: *Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction*

- *Big Red Lollipop* by Rukhsana Khan
- *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo
- "Copeland Makes History as the First Black Ballerina to Get Top ABT Role," (Newsela, 2021)*

Unit 4: *Discipline-Based Writing*

- *Animal Architect: Amazing Animals Who Build Their Homes* by Julio Antonio Blasco and Daniel Nassar
- *Baby Animals: Touch and Feel* by Priddy Books
- "Blue Planet II Plastic Pollution Awareness" (BBC video, featuring David Attenborough, 2018)
- "Helen Keller Gets Active," by Ammi-Joan Paquette (Appleseeds, 2007)*
- *If I Were a Hippo: Touch and Feel* by JellyCat
- "Keep Our Water Clean" (SciShow Kids video, 2021) (beginning at 0:37 and ending at 2:10.)
- Rachel Smith's speech "Drawing in Class" (TEDxUFM Talk, 2012)
- "Troubled Waters: The Great Lakes need our help" by Kathiann M. Kowalski (Odyssey Magazine, 2002) *
- "U.S. Capitol Crawl: Wheels of Justice Action" (University of Texas at Arlington Libraries video, 1990)
- *Wild Animals: A Touch and Feel Book* by Little Hippo Books

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Grade 5 Suggested Mentor Texts

The following texts support student learning throughout the Units of Study in Writing, Grade 5. These books are included with the Units of Study in Writing trade packs for fifth grade, available in Heinemann.com. Titles with an asterisk (*) can be viewed and printed within the Units of Study in Writing online resources.

Unit 1: *Turning Life into Literature*

- *Eleven* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark* by Sandra Cisneros

Unit 2: *Literary Essay: Opening Texts and Seeing More*

- *A Different Pond* by Bao Phi
- *Goal!* by Mina Javaherbin
- *Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña

Unit 3: *Research-Based Argument*

- "The Case for (Quality) Homework" by Janine Bempechat *(Education Next*, 2019) *
- "Do Kids Need Homework?" by Janine Bempechat and Etta Kralovec (*Time for Kids*, 2017) *
- "Does Homework Really Help Students Learn?" by Sara Rimer (*Bostonia: Boston University's Alumni Magazine*, 2019) *
- "Down with Homework, Say U.S. School Districts" by Tawnell D. Hobbs (*The Wall Street Journal*, 2018) *
- "The Hidden Benefits of Homework" *
- "Homework: A New User's Guide" by Cory Turner (NPR, 2015) *
- "Is Homework Good for Kids? Here's What the Research Says" by Katie Reilly (*Time Magazine*, 2016) *
- "It's Not So Simple: Why Kids Need Homework" *
- "Man's Best Friend" *
- "The Movement to End Homework is Wrong" by Jay Caspian Kang (*The New York Times*, 2022)*
- "Park Slope School Ditches Homework for Play-Based Alternatives, " by Leslie Albrecht and Amy Zimmer (*DNAinfo New York*, 2016) *

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- "Should Pets Ever Be Kept in Classrooms?" by Rachel Fraser (*The Guardian*, 2019) *
- "Should Schools Give Homework?" by Toby Badino (*The Foreword: The Student News Site of Taylor Allderdice High School*, 2023) *
- "Woof! Rrrread to Me, Please?" by Peg Lopata (*Faces*, 2009) *

Unit 4: *Journalism: Researching and Writing Articles*

- "Danger In Our Oceans" by Susan Berk Koch (*Faces* Magazine, 2022) *
- "Meet Stevie" by Corinne Purtill (*Time for Kids*, 2019) *
- "Mountains of Fire" by Liz Huyck (*ASK* Magazine, 2023) *
- *The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne* by Lesa Cline-Ransome
- "The Star Gazers" by Charles C. Hofer (*ASK* Magazine, 2020) *
- "Starbucks Opens Store Where All Employees Know American Sign Language" by Caterina Andreano (ABC News Online, 2018) *

The following books/videos/articles are recommended as additional read-alouds and mentor texts to support the writing work in the units. You'll see some of these titles referenced as optional teaching texts in individual sessions.

Unit 1: *Turning Life into Literature*

- *Big Red Lollipop* by Rukhsana Khan
- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- "The Cool-Air Chair" from *Writing Radar* by Jack Gantos
- *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Fox* by Margaret Wild
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- *Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *"Stray"* from *Every Living Thing* by Cynthia Rylant
- "Things" from *Honey I Love and Other Love Poems* by Eloise Greenfield
- *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo

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Grade 5 Suggested Mentor Texts

Unit 2: *Literary Essay: Opening Texts and Seeing More*

- "The Hagfish is the Slimy Sea Creature of Your Nightmares" (Smithsonian video, 2017)
- *The Last Dance* (Chicago Bulls basketball documentary, 2020)
- *My Two Border Towns* by David Bowles

Unit 3: *Research-Based Argument*

- Afghan Youth Activist Somaya Faruqi's Speech to the Transforming Education Summit (United Nations, 2022 video)
- "Climate Change" by Allyson Shaw (*National Geographic Kids*, 2018)
- "Do Kids Need Homework?" by Brian S. McGrath (*TIME For Kids*, 2017)
- Gayle King's Interview with Author Jason Reynolds (CBS This Morning, 2017)
- "Growing Numbers of Schools Say Bye to Homework" (Associated Press video, 2016)
- Hilda Flavia Nakabuye's Speech (C40 World Mayors Summit, 2019)
- "Should We Have Homework?" by Angelina Cordone (*Peak Student Media*, 2018)
- "The Skills Companies Need Most in 2019—And How to Learn Them" by Paul Petrone (*LinkedIn Learning,* 2018)
- Molly Steer's Speech "Straw No More" (TED Talk, 2017)
- "Our Campaign to Ban Plastic Bags in Bali" Presented by Melati and Isabel Wijsen (TED Global, 2015)
- "What happened when one school banned homework – and asked kids to read and play instead," by Valerie Strauss (*The Washington Post*, 2017)
- "Why I Think All Schools Should Abolish Homework" by Vicki Abeles (*Time* Magazine, 2017)

Unit 4: *Journalism: Researching and Writing Articles*

- Ask Magazine
- Cobblestone Magazine
- Faces Magazine
- Muse Magazine
- National Geographic Kids: Pet Central
- National Geographic Kids: Save the Earth
- Scholastic Magazine: We the People

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