

Lucy Calkins Additional Reading and Writing Units Video Interview Transcript

View this video and learn more about the [Additional Units](#)

Lucy: What I want you to know about Mystery is first of all, it's a reading book for third grade. The reason that we wrote it is that third grade readers face a really important cusp that they need to get over. Third graders are moving towards real chapter books, and reading with a lot more volume. And the thing about mysteries is it's a genre that teaches third graders to read chapter one and chapter two, while you're collecting clues to figure out "who did it." So what it teaches kids to do is to put together what they're learning in chapter one and chapter two and grow ideas about what's coming next in chapter three and chapter four. It's teaching them synthesis. It's teaching them the basic literal comprehension skills that they need in order to tackle some of these longer books that they will read in third grade. So, although it's called Mystery, it's really teaching kids foundational reading skills, and that's important work to be done. So we see it as a unit that kind of is ideally probably maybe the second unit in third grade, but it could also come in the spring of third grade. And because mysteries are such a super high engagement genre, it's also something you could be teaching in fourth grade. It's not a new unit in that the projects have been teaching this unit for over a decade, and it's always been a favorite unit. So it was really fun to be able to start with that knowledge that we have from having done so much work in the genre, and then really try to write it up in a way that supports the foundational comprehension skills that are so critical.

To learn more about the Units of Study for Reading and Writing, visit UnitsofStudy.com