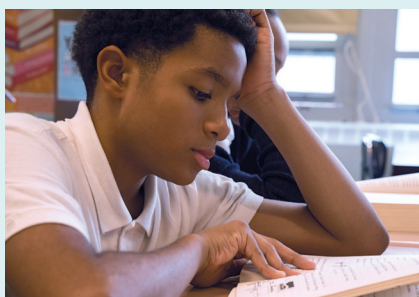


# UNITS OF STUDY *for* Teaching Reading

A WORKSHOP CURRICULUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES



LUCY CALKINS with Colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project



*This series builds on decades of teaching and research in literally tens of thousands of schools. Across the country, the Units of Study for Teaching Reading series has already given young people extraordinary power, not only as readers, but also as thinkers. When adolescents are explicitly taught the skills and strategies of proficient reading and are invited to live as richly literate people do, carrying books everywhere, bringing reading into every nook and corner of their lives, the results are dramatic.*

—LUCY CALKINS AND MARY EHRENWORTH

*A Guide to the Reading Workshop: Middle School Grades*

## What Do Middle Grade Readers Need?

We want our middle grade students to become flexible, resilient readers who read for pleasure as well as for multiple academic purposes. We want them to have a toolkit of strategies for dealing with difficulty, and we want them to know when and how to use those strategies. Not least, we want students to read broadly and deeply, alert to the intricacies of texts and to the power of language.

To accomplish such ambitious goals, we must reconsider how we think about English Language Arts classrooms and curricula. We can no longer conceive of the curriculum as a few books kids will master. Ambitious world-class standards now require that we equip students with a repertoire of skills and strategies to help them be more powerful in any text, whether print, digital, or multi-modal.

## How Can We Best Meet Those Needs?

As we adapt to new instructional priorities, we must also rethink the classroom structures that support our teaching. Reading workshop offers a powerful framework that allows the teacher to listen, to assess, and to teach complex reading strategies while also coaching into each student's zone of proximal development. During each day in the reading workshop, students read for the bulk of the time, and as they do, they draw upon an ever-growing repertoire of skills, tools, strategies, and habits.

The *Units of Study for Teaching Reading* series provides teachers with the tools and support they need to teach these vital skills and to move students quickly and efficiently toward and beyond grade-level expectations, while also helping them become proficient, passionate, lifelong readers.

For more information, please visit [UnitsofStudy.com/MSRUOS](http://UnitsofStudy.com/MSRUOS)

## Now Available:

### *A Deep Study of Character* by Mary Ehrenworth

This unit serves as a primer in what it means to participate in an intense reading workshop. It introduces students to a variety of instructional methods and coaches both teachers and students in how to harness those methods to increase reading expertise and independence. The unit also engages students with close reading, gathering text evidence, and weighing and evaluating multiple theories about complex characters.

**Note:** This is an ideal unit for the beginning of the school year, offering extra support for organizing a classroom library, matching readers to books, organizing partnerships, and planning for reading workshops.

### *Tapping the Power of Nonfiction* by Katie Clements

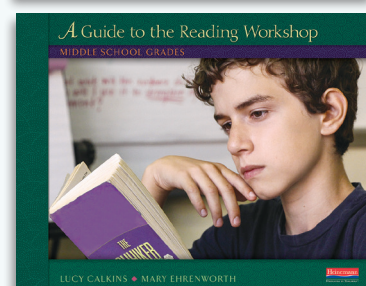
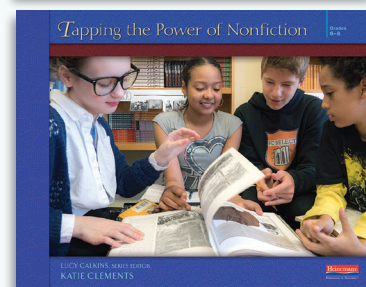
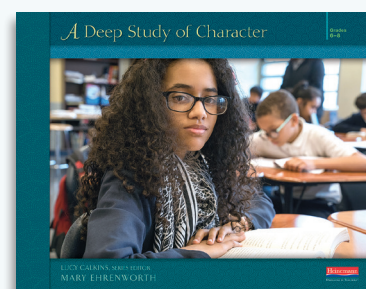
Nonfiction reading skills are essential to students' achievement in virtually every academic discipline. To do science, students need to read science books and articles. To study history, they need to be skilled at reading all kinds of primary and secondary sources. When we help students become powerful readers of nonfiction, we help them become powerful learners.

**Note:** This unit assumes you have a reading workshop up and running in your classroom and that your students have done some work in reading partnerships.

## Also Available:

### *A Guide to the Reading Workshop: Middle School Grades*

by Lucy Calkins and Mary Ehrenworth



## Suggestions for Sequencing Units Across Grade Levels

	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
<b>OPTION 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Character</li> <li>Nonfiction</li> <li>Social Issues Book Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More units to come!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More units to come!</li> </ul>
<b>OPTION 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Character</li> <li>Social Issues Book Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonfiction</li> <li>Dystopian Book Clubs or Historical Fiction &amp; Nonfiction Book Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nonfiction</li> <li>Dystopian Book Clubs or Historical Fiction &amp; Nonfiction Book Clubs</li> </ul>
<b>OPTION 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Character</li> <li>Nonfiction</li> <li>Social Issues Book Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Character</li> <li>Nonfiction</li> <li>Historical Fiction &amp; Nonfiction Book Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dystopian Book Clubs</li> <li>More units to come!</li> </ul>

Of course there are many other viable options for sequencing as you begin with these first units. Keep in mind that there is a layering of complexity across the units that you will want to consider as you plan. Also note that you will most likely choose to add additional units and shift some to different grade levels in your curricular plans as new reading units are published (details to come).

## Coming in Winter/Spring 2018 (available for preorder)

- ◆ Social Issues Book Clubs
- ◆ Dystopian Book Clubs
- ◆ Reading History: Historical Fiction and Nonfiction Book Clubs

## Also Available: TCRWP Classroom Libraries

- ◆ Complete libraries for grades 6, 7, and 8
- ◆ On level and below benchmark collections
- ◆ Individual library shelves including Book Club shelves