

Unit 2: Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s): **English Language Arts**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **8 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

This unit is designed to teach second graders the strategies of nonfiction reading. Students will focus their attention on growing knowledge as they pay attention to details and question texts. They will tackle both the tricky word work and vocabulary development of nonfiction reading. Readers will grow their knowledge across texts as they read topic sets of texts, comparing, contrasting and connecting information across texts. In addition, Foundations, Level 2, Wilson Language Basics, (2012, Wilson Language Training Corporation) will be utilized and provide comprehensive instruction to students in phonemic awareness word study, spelling, and handwriting curriculum. This instruction will contribute greatly to fluency, vocabulary development, and the applications of strategies for understanding text. All are necessary for the successful development of reading comprehension.

Standards

LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
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LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4	Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5	Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.8	Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.10	Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

LA.2.CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.8	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.4	Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.2	Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.5	Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.6	Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.7	Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.9	Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1	Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1.a	Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1.b	Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others.

Essential Questions

How do nonfiction readers read to become smarter about our world?

How do nonfiction readers accumulate information by seeing more than just the text on the page?

How do nonfiction readers tackle tricky words in their books?

How do nonfiction readers read more than one book about a topic to compare and contrast?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- read books across a topic
- readers of nonfiction need to understand main ideas and details
- readers pay attention to text structure to hold on to meaning
- readers use many skills and strategies to tackle the hard words that complicate meaning; for example turning to a glossary

- strategies for accumulating information
- strategies for dealing with nonfiction difficulty
- strategies for reading to learn

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- read books across a topic to understand their subject or to compare/contrast
- read nonfiction texts to learn about the world
- read the title, subtitles, and skimming the text
- use all their strategies for tackling tricky words
- use post-its to mark places in the text that support lesson teaching points
- use strategies for holding onto main ideas; for example looking for special print words/phrases
- use text to accumulate information and ask questions
- use texts to talk to partners

Teaching Points and Suggested Activities

The following teaching points and activities are adapted from Units of Study for Teaching Reading Grade 2 (Calkins et al., 2015) and serve as a loose framework for teachers, who will add and or emphasize based on their students' needs.

Teaching Points

- nonfiction readers notice and learn details to grow their knowledge
- nonfiction readers question what they are reading to learn more about a topic
- nonfiction readers ask "what is this book teaching me?"
- nonfiction readers preview all parts of a book and ask "how does this book go?" to determine what a book will teach
- nonfiction readers celebrate the gift of learning something new
- nonfiction readers use the language of a nonfiction topic to grow their knowledge on a topic
- teach students about glossaries and text features
- teach students that using text features to notice and understand key words
- teach students that using context to build knowledge of unknown words
- teach students sound-word correlation strategies
- teach students that solving words takes strategic and flexible thinking and practice
- nonfiction readers reread books like experts to grow more information about the topic
- nonfiction readers use text language to teach others and share their learning with partners
- nonfiction readers grow their knowledge by reading a lot of books on a topic
- nonfiction readers add information across books on topics and subtopics
- nonfiction readers think about how information is connected across books
- nonfiction readers find, think and talk about what is the same and what is different
- nonfiction readers retell topics part by part instead of book by book
- nonfiction readers get ready for the celebration and create exhibits and will teach others about topics
- nonfiction readers celebrate their new knowledge by teaching others by initiating questions

Activities to Support Teaching Points

- create and refer to anchor charts
- study pages from exemplar reader's notebooks
- provide and present mentor texts as models
- teach the *Work of Readers Charts*
- teach children strategies for holding onto text, for example by using Post-its and graphic organizers
- model (Talk Aloud) the strategies good readers use
- model, provide, and use a reader's notebook
- tap, sketch, or jot across a story as a way of retaining information and details
- study book introductions and endings
- practice creating mental movies as you read
- investigate figurative language and descriptive vocabulary and how authors use them
- Turn and Talk the dialogue in a story to bring the characters' feelings alive
- set mini-reading goals for engagement, print work, fluency, comprehension, and/or conversation
- provide checklists and reading progressions to assess and develop on-going reading goals
- scaffold skills with strategies, for example using Post-its to identify key elements of a chapter
- write long about reading
- practice alternating the speed a text is read to reflect tone and mood
- plan to celebrate the conclusion of classroom reading projects
- use technology in the reading classroom; for example digital journals

Assessments

Assessment in this unit takes three forms: diagnostic, formative, and summative. There are downloadable, digital versions of the assessment tools available through the online resources at; www.readingandwritingproject.org/resources. Teachers may also develop their own rubrics and assessments in order to include more specific elements of knowledge and skills listed in this unit summary.

Student self-assessment and peer assessment should take place whenever possible--again, in all three forms: diagnostic, formative, and summative. Removing the traditional emphasis on teacher assessment enables students to take more initiative and become self-directed.

On-going teacher assessment will take place in the context of a conference. Conferences, both small group and one-to-one conferring, are used to reinforce expectations, provide advice and/or assistance, and ultimately, to support growth.

Diagnostic Assessments

Running Records

www.readingandwritingproject.org/resources/assessments/running-records

Spelling Inventory

www.readingandwritingproject.org/resources/assessments/spelling-assessments

Individual beginning of the year "How's It Going?" conferences

Formative Assessments

Teacher-student conferences including: individual, small group, strategy group, and guided reading

Daily observation of students' participation during the active engagement segment of each mini-lesson.

Students' conversation with partners during Turn and Talk segment of mini-lessons.

Reading logs, Reader's Notebooks, Writing About Reading evidence (Post-its, journal entries, writing long about reading, for example)

Summative Assessment

Teacher-student conferences

Running Records

Spelling Assessments

Reading logs, Reader's Notebooks, and other evidence of students improving skills

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- provide leveled books appropriate for all reading levels
- provide support as needed through conferencing
- provide support as needed through strategy groups
- provide support as needed through guided reading groups
- provide individualized copies of teaching charts
- provide modified and/or alternate grade level checklists and rubrics to scaffold or stretch learning
- scaffold or stretch learning through the use of various strategies
- provide appropriate reading partners

Challenge gifted students to incorporate more complex reading techniques based on the 3rd grade Reading

Learning Progressions:

- preview a text to help decide how to organize thinking or note-taking
- check comprehension by pausing while reading and asking, "How does this part fit with my overall picture of the topic?"
- use new vocabulary learned through reading to discuss and write about a topic
- identify the craft techniques authors use in a text, for example, "The author made a comparison to help readers grasp an idea."
- recognize that author's want readers to think and feel a certain way about a topic and understand that a reader can disagree

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Writing Workshop

- apply language and ideas from read alouds and independent reading
- utilize read alouds and independent reading as mentor texts
- apply spelling strategies
- identify areas of spelling needs
- apply grammar skills
- identify areas in need of addressing (spelling, grammar, mechanics)
- expand written vocabulary from read alouds and independent reading
- model sentence and paragraph structure after mentor texts

Content Areas: Science, Social Studies, Health

- read just right books in the content areas
- use mentor texts to deliver Social Studies content
- compare content area ideas and issues to what our characters deal with in our read alouds and mentor texts
- apply reading skills and strategies to the reading we do in the content areas

Study Skills

- use graphic organizers to support reading
- use checklists and rubrics to monitor progress
- use Venn diagrams and t-charts to gather, compare, and contrast events
- use highlighters, note cards, post-its, and other tools to keep track of story events, details, and ideas
- keep a log and notebook

The Arts

- analyze illustrations in books for details
- compare illustrations to other forms of art

- illustrate a passage that was just read to show details, ideas, and lessons
- act out a scene from a book to better visualize how a character feels

Suggested Mentor Texts and Other Resources

Resources

Units of Study for Teaching Reading:

- *Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction* by Lucy Calkins, Celena Dangler Larkey, Lindsay Wilkes
- *A Guide to the Reading Workshop, Primary Grades*; Lucy Calkins
- *Reading Pathways, Grades 3-5, Performance Assessments and Learning Progressions*; Lucy Calkins
- *If...Then... Curriculum: Assessment-Based Instruction, Grades K-2*; Lucy Calkins; Elizabeth Moore; and Colleagues From the TCRWP
- *Online Resources for Teaching Writing*; Lucy Calkins
- website: www.readingandwritingproject.org/resources

The Art of Teaching Reading; Lucy Calkins

The Reading Strategies Book: Your Everything Guide to Developing Skilled Readers; Jennifer Serravallo

Leveled Books, K-8: Matching Texts to Readers for Effective Teaching; Irene C. Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell

Reading Miscue Inventory: From Evaluation to Instruction; Yetta M. Goodman

Miscue Analysis Made Easy: Building on Student Strengths; Sandra Wilde

Around the Reading Workshop in 180 Days; Frank Serafini

The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child; Donalyn Miller

Mindsets and Moves: Strategies That Help Readers Take Charge; Gravity Goldberg

Guiding Readers and Writers, Grades K-2; Irene C Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell

Smarter Charts; Marjorie Martinelli

Mentor Texts:

Ant Cities by A. Dorros

Apples by G. Gibbons

Apples and Pumpkins by A. Rockwell

Butterflies and Moths by B. Kalman

Everybody Needs a Rock by B. Baylor

Honey I Love and Other Poems by E. Greenfield

I'm in Charge of Celebrations by B. Baylor

Snow is Falling by F. Branley