

Reading - Unit 2: Reading the Weather, Reading the World

Content Area: **ELA**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Trimester 2**
Length: **8 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Course Pacing Guide

Unit	Trimester	Weeks
1: Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story	1	8
2: Reading the Weather, Reading the World	2	8
3: Reading History: The American Revolution	3	8
4: Historical Fiction Clubs	3	8

Unit Overview

This unit engages students in the nonfiction reading work highlighted in every iteration of twenty-first-century standards. Students begin by reading far and wide in nonfiction texts, moving from easy texts to more challenging ones. You'll teach them that when expository texts are organized into text structures such as problem/solution or compare-and-contrast, they can use their knowledge of structures to figure out what is and isn't important, becoming readers who, by distilling the main ideas and important points, are able to summarize. Later, children form research teams to delve into topics about extreme weather and natural disasters. You'll help teams to research a topic, reading across source material to learn about causes and effects of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other disasters. You'll teach them to alter their reading when tackling dense scientific texts. You'll teach cross-text synthesis, channeling kids to think about how new information can add to or challenge prior knowledge. Then at the end of the unit, students consolidate and apply all they've learned as they explore a related, but different, topic. Students study authorial tone and craft, and practice close reading, comparing and contrasting, and evaluating sources to determine credibility. For additional information regarding the unit please see TCRWP

User's Guide and Units of Study for Teaching Reading Grade 4 Book 2.

Enduring Understandings

- Readers determine importance in Expository Non-Fiction by paying attention to text features such as the table of contents, diagrams, charts, graphic organizers, photos, and captions.
- Readers figure out the text's structure and use it to determine importance.
- Readers synthesize Expository Non-Fiction by being alert to the visual features of expository texts and to anticipate particular content.
- Readers synthesize what they are learning across texts when they research

Essential Questions

- How do readers determine importance and synthesize information in expository NonFiction?
- How do students pay attention to the structure of each particular text and the way the text is written, in order to figure out what is important in the text and to help them organize and hold onto their thoughts about the subject?

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (No CCS)

LA.RI.4.1	Refer to details and examples in a text and make relevant connections when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
LA.RI.4.2	Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
LA.RI.4.3	Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
LA.RI.4.4	Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.
LA.RI.4.5	Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
LA.RI.4.6	Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.
LA.RI.4.7	Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
LA.RI.4.8	Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.
LA.RI.4.9	Integrate and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
LA.RI.4.10	By the end of year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.

Amistad Integration

- District mandated diversity lessons
- Utilizing responsive classroom techniques, strategies and skills

Holocaust/Genocide Education

- District mandated diversity lessons
- Utilizing responsive classroom techniques, strategies and skills

Interdisciplinary Connections

LA.W.4.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
LA.W.4.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.4.7	Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
LA.W.4.8	Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
LA.W.4.9	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
LA.W.4.9.B	Apply grade 4 Reading standards to informational texts (e.g., “Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text”).
LA.SL.4.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.4.2	Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, and orally).
LA.SL.4.3	Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.
LA.SL.4.4	Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.
LA.SL.4.5	Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.
LA.SL.4.6	Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion); use formal English when appropriate to task and situation.
LA.L.4.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.4.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.4.6	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

Technology Standards

List specific standards that are relevant

No general statements

TECH.8.1.5.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.5.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.5.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.5.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.5.F	Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.

21st Century Themes/Careers

List specific standards that are relevant

No general statements

CAEP.9.2.4.A.4	Explain why knowledge and skills acquired in the elementary grades lay the foundation for future academic and career success.
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Financial Literacy Integration

9.1.4.B.1 Differentiate between financial wants and needs.

9.1.4.B.2 Identify age-appropriate financial goals.

9.1.4.B.4 Identify common household expense categories and sources of income.

9.1.4.B.5 Identify ways to earn and save.

9.1.4.D.2 Explain what it means to “invest.”

9.1.4.D.3 Distinguish between saving and investing.

9.1.4.F.1 Demonstrate an understanding of individual financial obligations and community financial obligations.

9.1.4.G.1 Describe how valuable items might be damaged or lost and ways to protect them.

Instructional Strategies & Learning Activities

- 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.
- Collect and curate nonfiction resources using Padlet

Differentiated Instruction

Examples may include:

- Curriculum Map
- Inquiry/Problem-Based Learning
- Learning preferences integration (visual, auditory, kinesthetic)
- Sentence & Discussion Stems
- Tiered Learning Targets
- Reader's Theatre
- Shared Reading
- Meaningful Student Voice & Choice
- Relationship-Building & Team-Building
- Self-Directed Learning
- Choice Boards
- Debate
- Mock Trial
- The Hot Seat/Role-Play
- Student Data Inventories
- Mastery Learning (feedback toward goal)
- Goal-Setting & Learning Contracts
- Game-Based Learning
- Grouping
- Socratic Seminar
- Genius Hour
- Rubrics
- Learning Menus

- Jigsaws
- Learning Through Workstations
- Concept Attainment
- Flipped Classroom
- Mentoring
- Assessment Design & Backwards Planning
- Student Interest & Inventory Data

Formative Assessments

Conference notes/Teacher anecdotes

Reading Response Notebooks

Turn and talk conversations

Reading Logs

Book club discussions

Strategy Groups

Guided Reading Groups

Student-created goals from Student Response Rubrics

Exit tickets

Summative Assessment

Unit 2 Pre and Post Assessments

Mid-Unit: Group Weather Poster and Presentation

End-of-Unit: Compare and Contrast Weather Google Slide presentation

Benchmark Assessments

Fall Link It Assessment

Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessments (Running Records) as needed

Alternate Assessments

TC Running Records

<https://readingandwritingproject.org/resources/assessments/running-records>

Resources & Technology

Reading the Weather, Reading the World Lucy Calkins, Emily Butler Smith, Mike Ochs

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

Fourth Grade Readers: Units of Study to Help Students Internalize and Apply Strategies Martha Heller-Winokur, Marcia Uretsky, Isoke Titilayo Nia

The Comprehension Toolkit Grades 3-5 Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis

Fourth Grade Readers: Units of Study to Help Students Internalize and Apply Strategies Martha Heller-Winokur and Marcia Uretsky

A Guide to the Reading Workshop, Grades 3-5 (Book 1) Lucy Calkins and Kathleen Tolan

Lucy Calkins Resources CD / heinemann.com

Internet Links:

Into the Book: Teaching Reading Comprehension Strategies

<http://reading.ecb.org>

Links to videos, class sites, strategies for Reader's Workshop

<http://www.readersworkshop.org>

TCRWP - Teachers College Reading & Writing Project

<http://tc.readingandwritingproject.com>

Padlet

BOE Approved Texts

Content Area Leveled Libraries

Fiction Leveled Libraries

Non Fiction Leveled Libraries

Unit of Study Trade Pack: Unit 2: Grade 4

Read Alouds

- Hurricane and Tornado by Jack Challoner
- Weather by Kathy Furgang

Closure

Such as:

- Snowstorm - Students write down what they learned on a piece of scratch paper and wad it up. Given a signal, they throw their paper snowballs in the air. Then each learner picks up a nearby response and reads it aloud.
- Parent Hotline - Give students an interesting question about the lesson without further discussion. Email their guardians the answer so that the topic can be discussed over dinner.
- DJ Summary - Learners write what they learned in the form of a favorite song. Offer to let one or two sing thier summary.
- Gallery Walk - On chart paper, small groups of students write and draw what they learned. After the completed works are attached to the classroom walls, others students affix post-its to the posters to extend on the ideas, add questions.
- Sequence It - create timelines of major events discussed
- Low-Stakes Quizzes - Give a short quiz using technologies like Kahoot or a Google form.
- Have students write down three quiz questions (to ask at the beginning of the next class).
- Question Stems - Have students write questions about the lesson on cards, using [question stems framed around Bloom's Taxonomy](#). Have students exchange cards and answer the question they have acquired.
- Kids answer the following prompts: "What takeaways from the lesson will be important to know three years from now? Why?"
- Have students dramatize a real-life application of a skill.
- Ask a question. Give students ten seconds to confer with peers before you call on a random student to answer. Repeat.
- Have kids orally describe a concept, procedure, or skill in terms so simple that a child in first grade would get it.
- Direct kids to raise their hands if they can answer your questions. Classmates agree (thumbs up) or disagree (thumbs down) with the response.

- Have kids create a cheat sheet of information that would be useful for a quiz on the day's topic.
- Kids write notes to peers describing what they learned from them during class discussions.
- Ask students to summarize the main idea in under 60 seconds to another student acting as a well-known personality who works in your discipline. After summarizing, students should identify why the famous person might find the idea significant.
- Have students complete the following sentence: "The [concept, skill, word] is like _____ because _____."
- Ask students to write what they learned, and any lingering questions on an "exit ticket". Before they leave class, have them put their exit tickets in a folder or bin labeled either "Got It," "More Practice, Please," or "I Need Some Help!"
- After writing down the learning outcome, ask students to take a card, circle one of the following options, and return the card to you before they leave: "Stop (I'm totally confused. Go (I'm ready to move on.)" or "Proceed with caution (I could use some clarification on . . .)"
- Post It Parking Lot - students demonstrate understanding by responding with a quick jot on a PIN on a shared class chart

ELL

Such as:

- Alternate Responses
- Advance Notes
- Extended Time
- Teacher Modeling
- Simplified Written and Verbal Instructions
- Frequent Breaks
- E-Dictionaries
- Google Translate

Special Education

List is not inclusive but may include examples such as:

- Shorten assignments to focus on mastery of key concepts.
- Shorten spelling tests to focus on mastering the most functional words.
- Substitute alternatives for written assignments (clay models, posters, panoramas, collections, etc.)
- Specify and list exactly what the student will need to learn to pass.
- Evaluate the classroom structure against the student's needs (flexible structure, firm limits, etc.).
- Keep workspaces clear of unrelated materials.
- Keep the classroom quiet during intense learning times.
- Reduce visual distractions in the classroom (mobiles, etc.).
- Provide a computer for written work.
- Seat the student close to the teacher or a positive role model.
- Provide an unobstructed view of the chalkboard, teacher, movie screen, etc.

- Keep extra supplies of classroom materials (pencils, books) on hand.
- Maintain adequate space between desks.
- Give directions in small steps and in as few words as possible.
- Number and sequence the steps in a task.
- Have student repeat the directions for a task.
- Provide visual aids.
- Go over directions orally.
- Provide a vocabulary list with definitions.
- Permit as much time as needed to finish tests.
- Allow tests to be taken in a room with few distractions (e.g., the library).
- Have test materials read to the student, and allow oral responses.
- Divide tests into small sections of similar questions or problems.
- Allow the student to complete an independent project as an alternative test.
- Give progress reports instead of grades.
- Grade spelling separately from content.
- Allow take-home or open-book tests.
- Show a model of the end product of directions (e.g., a completed math problem or finished quiz).
- Stand near the student when giving directions or presenting a lesson.
- Mark the correct answers rather than the incorrect ones.
- Permit a student to rework missed problems for a better grade.
- Average grades out when assignments are reworked, or grade on corrected work.
- Use a pass-fail or an alternative grading system when the student is assessed on his or her own growth.

504

- preferential seating
- extended time on tests and assignments
- reduced homework or classwork
- verbal, visual, or technology aids
- modified textbooks or audio-video materials
- behavior management support
- adjusted class schedules or grading
- verbal testing
- excused lateness, absence, or missed classwork
- pre-approved nurse's office visits and accompaniment to visits
- occupational or physical therapy

At Risk

Examples may include:

- Use of mnemonics
- Have student restate information

- Provision of notes or outlines
- Concrete examples
- Use of a study carrel
- Assistance in maintaining uncluttered space
- Weekly home-school communication tools (notebook, daily log, phone calls or email messages)
- Peer or scribe note-taking
- Lab and math sheets with highlighted instructions
- Graph paper to assist in organizing or lining up math problems
- Use of manipulatives
- No penalty for spelling errors or sloppy handwriting
- Follow a routine/schedule
- Teach time management skills
- Verbal and visual cues regarding directions and staying on task
- Adjusted assignment timelines
- Visual daily schedule
- Immediate feedback
- Work-in-progress check
- Pace long-term projects
- Preview test procedures
- Film or video supplements in place of reading text
- Pass/no pass option
- Cue/model expected behavior
- Use de-escalating strategies
- Use peer supports and mentoring
- Have parent sign homework/behavior chart
- Chart progress and maintain data

*Add to or remove any of these as you see fit.

Gifted and Talented

Focus on effort and practice

Offer the Most Difficult First

Offer choice

Speak to Student Interests

Allow G/T students to work together

Encourage risk taking

Leveled book clubs

Working toward Grade 5 and 6 goals on Student Response Rubrics

