Unit 1 Writing: Making Small Moments Big

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Trimester 1**
Length: **4-6 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

This unit is designed as an introduction to second grade writing workshop. Students will learn procedures for participating in their new classroom community, writing independently, and working with partners. Students will demonstrate their writing stamina and proficiency through their narrative writing. Students will continue with their small moment stories by brainstorming topics choices, planning/rehearsing their stories, sketching, and writing with emphasis on editing and revising too. Second graders will carry this work forward by studying the craft of an author(s) and incorporate these craft moves into their own writing, using them to craft stories that readers are eager to read. Their stories should recount a well-elaborated event, including details, thoughts, actions, feelings, and providing a sense of closure. To do this work, students will look closely at the work of one published writer(s) and learn to let that writer function as a mentor noticing the author's craftsmanship, thinking, "Perhaps I could try this in my piece."

This unit is designed to be part of a developmental progression across grade levels and make interdisciplinary connections across content areas including physical and social sciences, technology, career readiness, cultural awareness, and global citizenship. During this course, students are provided with opportunities to develop skills that pertain to a variety of careers.

Revision Date: June 2024

Pacing Guide

Please refer to this Language Arts Reading and Writing Workshop Pacing Guide for grade 2; Sentence Study is paced and aligned within the Syntax, Style, Grammar and Conventions section. Please refer to this folder for the scope and sequence as well as specific lessons and materials.

A sample K-5 Literacy Schedule Across a Week is accessible in instructional materials section of the Grades K-5 folder.

Standards

The identified standards reflect a developmental progression across grades/ levels and make interdisciplinary connections across content areas including social sciences, technology, career readiness, cultural awareness and global citizenship. The standards that follow are relevant to this course in addition to the associated content-based standards listed below.

L.WF.2.2.D	Most often used words in English:
L.KL.2.1	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
L.VI.2.3	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
L.VI.2.3.A	Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe foods that are spicy or juicy).
L.VI.2.3.B	Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (e.g., toss, throw, hurl) and closely related adjectives (e.g., thin, slender, skinny, scrawny).
W.NW.2.3	Write narratives based on real or imagined experiences or events with basic story elements.
W.NW.2.3.A	Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing characters; organize an event sequence.
W.NW.2.3.B	Provide dialogue and description of experiences and events and/or show the responses of characters to situations.
W.NW.2.3.C	Use transitional words to manage the sequence of events.
W.NW.2.3.D	Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experience and events.
W.NW.2.3.E	Provide a conclusion or sense of closure related to the narrated experiences or events.
W.WP.2.4	With guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising and editing.
W.WP.2.4.A	Identify audience and purpose before writing.
W.WP.2.4.B	Participate in self-evaluation of written work.
W.RW.2.7	Engage in both collaborative and independent writing tasks regularly, including extended and shorter time frames.
SL.PE.2.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
SL.II.2.2	Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
SL.ES.2.3	Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue.
SL.PI.2.4	Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
SL.AS.2.6	Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on

	others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP9.1	Career-ready individuals consistently act in ways that align personal and community-held ideals and principles while employing strategies to positively influence others in the workplace. They have a clear understanding of integrity and act on this understanding in every decision. They use a variety of means to positively impact the directions and actions of a team or organization, and they apply insights into human behavior to change others' action, attitudes and/or beliefs. They recognize the near-term and long-term effects that management's actions and attitudes can have on productivity, morals and organizational culture.
CRP.K-12.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
TECH.8.1.2.A.2	Create a document using a word processing application.
TECH.8.1.2.D.1	Develop an understanding of ownership of print and nonprint information.
TECH.8.2.2.B.1	Identify how technology impacts or improves life.

Performing Arts Standards

1.4.2.Cr1: (a). Propose potential character choices and plot details in a guided drama

experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (b). Collaborate with peers to conceptualize props, costumes, and scenery in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (c). Identify ways in which voice, gestures, movements, and sounds may be used to create or retell a story in guided drama experiences (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Cr2: (a). Contribute to the development of a sequential plot; collaborate with peers to devise a meaningful dialogue in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (b). Contribute original ideas and make decisions as a group to advance a story in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Cr3: (a). With prompting and support, contribute to the adaption of plot and dialogue in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (b). Identify similarities and differences

in sounds and movements in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (c). Independently imagine multiple representations of an object in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama) and collaboratively create multiple representations of an object in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Pr5: (a). With prompting and support interpret story elements (e.g., character, setting) in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (b). Utilize body and facial gestures with a change in voice to communicate character traits and emotions in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Pr6: (a). Use voice, sound, movement, and gestures to communicate emotions in a guided drama experience; informally share guided drama experiences (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama) with peers.

1.4.2.Re8: (a). With prompting and support, actively engage and build on others' ideas in dramatic play or a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (b). Identify and use props and costumes that might be used in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama). (c). Compare and contrast how characters respond to challenges in a guided drama experience (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Cn10: (a). With prompting and support, identify similarities between characters in dramatic play or a guided drama experience and relate character emotions and experiences to personal experiences of self and peers (e.g.,

process drama, story drama, creative drama).

1.4.2.Cn11: (a). With prompting and support, identify similarities and differences in stories and various art forms from one’s own community and from multiple cultures in a guided drama (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama) experience about global issues, including climate change. (b). Collaborate on the creation of a short scene based on personal perspectives and understanding.

Essential Questions

Bend 1: How can you use moments from your life to tell stories and write focused narratives?

Bend 2: How can you bring your story to life through revision?

Bend 3: What can you learn from mentor authors to make your writing even better?

Students Will Know/Students Will Be Skilled At

- expectations/procedures
- characteristics of personal narratives
- how to generate small moment/seed idea stories
- creating a published piece
- collaborating with peers
- using appropriate spelling strategies
- the traits/lenses of writing
    - Meaning: Is this important to the reader?
    - Structure/Organization: Is it logical or sequential?
    - Details/Elaboration: Do the details develop meaning?
    - Voice/Craft: Can you sense the writer and the writer's mood?
    - Genre: Does the writer understand the type of writing?
    - Conventions: Does the writer control spelling and punctuation?

By the end of this unit, students will:

- Plan and draft many stories
- Work with partners
- Add feelings, actions, thoughts, and dialogue to their writing
- Revise to "Show not Tell" actions, feelings, and dialogue
- Use mentor texts to influence their writing
- Revise their stories' beginnings, endings, and titles
- Use comparisons, repetition and description.
- Edit their stories for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Students demonstrate differentiated proficiency through both formative and summative assessments in the classroom. Based on individual student readiness and performance, assessments can be implemented as formative and/or summative.

Developmental progression across years in both reading and writing is evidenced by multiple benchmark assessment screeners, administered three times per year. Follow up diagnostic assessments are used to target skill remediation. Student proficiency allows for additional or alternative assessment based on demonstration or absence of skill.

The performance tasks listed below are examples of the types of assessments teachers may use in the

classroom and the data collected by the district to track student progress.

Formative:

- Answer essential questions
- Teacher observations/conferring notes
- Turn and talks
- Partnerships rehearsing their writing
- Peer Conferences
- Writer's Notebook (quick writes/drafts/prewrites)
- Writing Conferences: Individual and small group
- Writing Partnership work and discussions
- Writing folders with student work
- Writing pieces to note the growth need of the writer
- Observations
- Listening in on partnership discussion of writing piece
- Drafts online (Google Docs)
- Writing Club work and discussions

Summative including Alternative Assessments:

- Students should have 2-3 final pieces to score not including the post assessment.
- Published pieces
- Score grammar and spelling in final drafts only
- Student portfolios
- During publishing students read their piece to assess oral speaking and reading skills
- Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Learning Progressions
- Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Rubrics and Student Samples
- Rubrics: created for the standards-based report card as well as teacher-created.
- Standards should be addressed as reported on the Standards-Based Report Card

Benchmark:

- Benchmark writing assessments: opinion, narrative, and informational, scored using rubrics, district-created and provided. Located in the shared Grades K-8 Language Arts folder on the Google Drive, they are reported three times per year.

Learning Plan

Our primary writing instruction follows a balanced literacy approach including a number of strategies and techniques in Writing Workshop. These include mini-lessons, shared writing, independent writing, small group strategy instruction, one-to-one conferencing, and partnerships. Writing Workshop emphasizes

immersion, independence, and choice. Individual conferences with each student will address specific needs of the writer. Each unit ends with a celebration of learning where children share their writing with others in the school community.

Lessons should follow the mini-lesson format:

- Teaching point(s) for each lesson
- Connection: Connects new learning to previous learning/lessons
- Teach/Modeling: Uses "think aloud" when modeling what you expect students to do
- Guided Practice/Active Engagement: Guides students through practice of the teaching point
- Link to Independent Practice: Helps writers understand the purpose for the writing they are about to do and the skills/craft they will be practicing/applying independently as good writers
- Independent Writing/Student Conferences: Provides time for students to do independent writing while the teacher confers with individual students, works with small groups, or writing partnerships.
- Closure/Sharing: Pull students back together and recognize the work they have done relating to the teaching point.

For teaching purposes, see attached template for structure of a Writing Workshop lesson. Change red font to match your teaching point. Click here.

Here is a sample of a Writing Workshop template. Click here.

The architecture of a writing conference includes:

- Research
- Decide
- Teach and Coach with guided practice
- Link

Please refer to the Grades K-5 Google folder for specific lessons and materials.

Teachers may personalize instruction during this unit and address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, or cultural backgrounds of individual students.

Detailed Curriculum Map

Teaching Points and lessons are located in the K-5 folder under curriculum for Language Arts. These curriculum unit guides include not only aligned teaching points to standards, but also specific lessons and appropriate resources. Guidelines for preparing to teach the unit as well as goals for the end of the unit are outlined. Academic vocabulary and prerequisite skills are identified. Essential questions and possible assessments are detailed as well.

Syntax, Style, Grammar, and Conventions

Sentence study will be taught across the week to teach syntax, diction, grammar, and punctuation. Students will learn how to write like an author by mimicking specific sentence patterns and applying it to their own writing. Please refer to the K-5 folder for specific lessons and materials.

Sentence study introduce students to a CORRECTLY written sentence. It shows students what GOOD writing is all about. Rather than students identifying what is wrong with a sentence, they have to find what is RIGHT about a sentence's grammar, structure, and style. Students will be able to apply their learning to develop and strengthen their independent writing skills.

Please refer to this folder for the scope and sequence as well as specific lessons and materials.

Materials

The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, enrichment, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

The core materials for this unit include the Units of Study in Writing for grade 2, The Reading and Writing Project at Mossflower, 2024-2025.

Materials used for grammar and convention study include the following: Patterns of Power: Inviting Young Writers into the Conventions of Language by Jeff Anderson.

For Fountas & Pinnell classroom shared reading and interactive read aloud books that link to each unit, please see the FPC and Units of Study Crosswalk.

Instructional Materials

Please use the following link to access instructional materials for this unit.

Heinemann for anchor charts and other teacher resources & materials (username: deacon@cranfordschools.org password: Hillside125)

Possible Mentor Texts:

- Bigmama's(D. Crews)
- Corduroy(D. Freeman)
- Flying(D. Crew)
- My Little Island(F. Lessac)
- School Bus(D. Crews)
- Fireflies (Julie Brinckloe)
- Kitchen Dance (Maurie J. Manning)
- Salt Hands (Picture Puffins) (Jane Chelsea Aragon)
- Roller Coaster (Maria Frazee) – can be used to teach personal narratives, but not told from 1st person perspective
- Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale (Mo Willems)
- The Leaving Morning (Angela Johnson)
- My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother (Patricia Polacco)
- Bigmama's (Donald Crews)
- Owl Moon (Jane Yolen)
- A Chair for My Mother (Vera Williams
- The Relatives Came (Cynthia Rylant)
- Shortcut (Donald Crews)
- Thunder Cake (Patricia Polacco)
- Thank You, Mr. Falker (Patricia Polacco) – narrative / personal narrative

Teacher Resources

- Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Lucy Calkins with Colleagues from the Reading and Writing Project, Grade 2 Heinemann, 2023.
- Heinemann website: https://www.heinemann.com/extracreditclub/home.aspx for anchor charts, unit resources, and other online materials. (Consult with building principal or literacy team for access).
- *The Writing Strategies Boo*k, Jennifer Serravallo
- *About the Authors*, Lisa Cleveland and Katie Wood Ray
- *More About the Authors*, Lisa Cleveland
- *In Pictures and In Words*, Katie Wood Ray
- *Patterns of Power*, Jeff Anderson
- *Assessing Writers*, Carl Anderson
- Cranford Public School Grades K-5

Suggested Strategies for Modifications and Accommodations

Content specific accommodations and modifications as well as Career Ready Practices are listed here for all students, including: Special Education, English Language Learners, At Risk of School Failure, Gifted and Talented, Students with 504.

The structure of writing workshop is designed to differentiate and address specific goals and learning for each reader:

- The unit includes presentation of material through multiple modalities such as visual, auditory, and kinesthetic to address the unique learning styles of all students.
- The teacher will assign, assess and modify if necessary to address the specific needs of the learner.
- Students have individualized choice of topics within each unit.
- Individual conferences with each student will address specific needs of the writer.

Possible accommodations during writing workshop include, but are not limited to:

- Variety of paper choice that suits needs of student (raised line, dotted lines, color coded, double spaced)
- Choice seating (standing desks, laying on stomach, resistance bands on desks legs)
- Pencil grips, different size length/width pencils
- Blocking (blocking assignments into smaller segments)
- Cutting (cut worksheets into sections)
- Folding (fold worksheets into sections)
- Highlighting, color coding or underlining.
- Minimize amount of papers/organizers in writing folder/binder
- Slant desk
- Seat cushion/sensory input
- Use lines to indicate number of words in a sentence and where they should be placed
- Personal dictionary (Words I Use When I Write)
- Personal Word Wall with sight words
- Speech to Text (Dictation technology)
- Visual aides on desk (blends, di/trigraphs, diphthongs), (structure/organization)
- Provide peer support
- Use brain breaks as well as short breaks within work session
- Checklist with visuals
- Student office/privacy folders

For possible modifications to content during writing workshop, please . . .

- Consult with Cranford Problem Solving Team (CPST) at your school, as needed.
- Adhere to all modifications and accommodations as prescribed in IEP and 504 plans.
- Refer to the Strategies for Striving Students and Pathways to Intervention documents in the Grades K-5 folder for specific appropriate interventions.

Framework for Alternative Setting (LEAP Program at Lincoln School)

In our K–5 alternative school setting, each class consists of students who require a highly personalized approach to reading instruction. The district's core Reading Units of Study will continue to serve as the primary reading curriculum framework; however, lessons will be further adapted to ensure accessibility and engagement for all learners. Teachers will use a combination of pacing adjustments, flexible timing, and individualized goal setting to meet students at their current skill levels. Instruction will be delivered through a blend of whole-group, small-group, and one-on-one settings, with intentional scaffolds in place to build confidence and reduce frustration. Please see this document for detailed information.