

# Unit 03: Children's Books

Content Area: **Template**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **FY**  
Status: **Published**

## **Standards Alignment**

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### **New Jersey Student Learning Standards**

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#### **Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills**

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CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
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.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

#### **Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking**

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TECH.8.1.12	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.
TECH.8.1.12.A.1	Create a personal digital portfolio which reflects personal and academic interests, achievements, and career aspirations by using a variety of digital tools and resources.
TECH.8.1.12.A.2	Produce and edit a multi-page digital document for a commercial or professional audience and present it to peers and/or professionals in that related area for review.
TECH.8.1.12.A.3	Collaborate in online courses, learning communities, social networks or virtual worlds to discuss a resolution to a problem or issue.

## Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSL for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section

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LA.RL.9-10	Reading Literature Key Ideas and Details
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R1	Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.RL.9-10.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details and provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
LA.RL.9-10.3	Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.  Craft and Structure
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4	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.RL.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R5	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.RL.9-10.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W	Writing
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.  Production and Distribution of Writing
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.  Range of Writing

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL	Speaking and Listening Comprehension and Collaboration
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL1	Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L	Language
LA.W.9-10.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. Conventions of Standard English
LA.W.9-10.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
LA.W.9-10.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.W.9-10.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole. Knowledge of Language
LA.W.9-10.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
LA.W.9-10.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative. Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
LA.W.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L5	Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
LA.W.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L6	Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and

	phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.
LA.W.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
LA.W.9-10.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.9-10.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.SL.9-10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
LA.SL.9-10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
LA.SL.9-10.4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.L.9-10.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.9-10.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.9-10.3	Apply knowledge of language to make effective choices for meaning, or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading, writing, speaking or listening.
LA.L.9-10.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grades 9–10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
LA.L.9-10.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.9-10.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## **Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy**

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see Crosswalks

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## **21st Century Life and Careers**

## Stage I: Desired Results

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### Transfer/Overview/Rationale

#### Transfer / Overview / Rationale

##### Unit Rationale

The purpose of this unit...

The purpose of this unit is for students to understand what elements make a children's book successful in order to write one of their own. Memorable - and commercially successful - children's books have a target market but are enjoyable at all ages, have a relatable theme, and (usually) include captivating images. Furthermore, and perhaps more importantly, they are often the foundation of early childhood literacy development. Students who fully understand and embrace these components will be able to write a captivating children's book.

### Meaning

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### Essential Questions

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#### Essential Questions

- How can I ensure that my children's book promotes literacy in children, both via moral content and grammar?
- How can I reach my target audience while also engaging and entertaining an adult population?
- Is my children's book inclusive of all children, no matter who they are or where they came from?
- Is my book a cohesive mix of plot, theme, and illustration?

### Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

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#### Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

- Reading to young children is critical in developing their literacy skills and teaching them explicit moral lessons; therefore, children's books must model grammatical accuracy as well as moral integrity.
- Children's books are successful when they have a clear theme and target audience, but can also be enjoyed and appreciated by audiences of all ages.
- With few exceptions, illustrations are an integral part of children's books and must match the tone, style, and content of the story.
- Like writing in for any other genre, the process of writing a children's book is a multi-step endeavor that requires

patience, resilience, reflection, and determination.

## **Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)**

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### **Knowledge**

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Knowledge

Students will know...

- Reading to children consistently as they grow is absolutely essential to the development and progression of their literacy skills; therefore, a successful children's book models emotional and civic literacy and integrity along with impeccable grammar.
- Children's books are most successful when they have a target audience and a clear yet subtle (read: not preachy) theme, but can simultaneously be enjoyed by people of all ages.
- A staple of children's books is to be concise and to show, not necessarily tell; therefore, captivating images are (usually) a staple of a good children's book (Exceptions: BJ Novak's *A Book with No Pictures*). Illustrations should fit with the theme, tone, and style of the book.
- Writing a children's book requires the same amount of forethought and planning as any other writing project in any other genre.

### **Skills**

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Skills

Student will be skilled at ...

- Reading, analyzing, and discussing the essential elements of successful children's books.
- Re-imagining their favorite children's books by rewriting them from a different POV, with a different ending, etc.
- Using graphic organizers to brainstorm and plan their own children's book.
- Establishing a target audience for their book.
- Establishing a clear theme for their book, while avoiding "preaching" a lesson/moral.
- Deciding on an illustration style that goes hand in hand with the content, target audience, and theme of the book.
- Planning, writing, illustrating, and completing an original children's book.

## **Stage 3: Learning Plan**

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### **Resource and Mentor Texts**

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#### Resources and Mentor Texts

- A diverse collection of children's books, including, but not limited to this collection.
- This lesson plan: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/children-picture-book-project-1022.html?tab=4#tabs>
- This writer's advice: <http://www.today.com/parents/want-write-good-children-s-book-here-are-7-tips-t85831>

### **Formative Assessment Strategies**

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#### Formative Assessment Strategies

- Students will be assessed via: informal discussion; verbal questioning; multiple-choice questions; short-answer and open-ended questions, etc., throughout the unit; once students seem comfortable and proficient in identifying elements of a successful short story, I will know we are reading to start infusing them into our own story writing.
- I will assess student writing and provide feedback consistently as they write their children's books to ensure they are generating their best possible work.

### **Learning Activities/Unit of Study**

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## Learning Activities/Unit of Study

- Browse through a collection of classic and contemporary children's books, reading them alone as well as in groups.
- Revisit their own favorite children's books and share with their classmates via small- and whole-group discussion what they enjoy about the book.
- Discover together the elements of a successful children's book via student-generated ideas first, followed by teacher-led instruction to fill the gaps.
- Reimagine some of their favorite children's books by rewriting them from a different POV, in a different setting, changing the ending, etc.
- Brainstorm, plan, write, and illustrate a complete original children's book.
- Spend time peer-reviewing and editing one another's books.
- May possibly visit an elementary school to read their books to their target audience.

## **Modifications and/or Accommodations**

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### **Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)**

#### **English Language Learners**

**Native language support:** The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

**Adjusted Speech:** The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

**Visuals:** The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

**Front-Loading Vocabulary:** The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

#### **Special Education Students**

**Chunking:** The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

**Checking for Understanding:** It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

Extra time: The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

Oral Reading: The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

Timers: The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

## **Students with 504 Plans**

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## **Gifted & Talented Strategies**

Extensions/Enrichments: Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

Modify/Change Activities: Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs students.

## **Students at Risk of School Failure**

Directions or Instructions: Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

**Peer Support:** Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

**Alternate or Modified Assignments:** Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

**Increase One to One Time:** When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

**Contracts:** It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

**Hands On:** As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

**Tests/Assessments:** Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

**Seating:** Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.