

# Unit 1- The Classroom Community

Content Area: **Language Arts**  
Course(s): **E/LA 3**  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **3 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Essential Questions

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- How can I participate in a writing community?
- How can I learn from the writing practices of professional authors?
- How can I use prewriting and freewriting activities to develop my writing?
- How can I use my interests to generate writing ideas?

## Big Ideas

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- Building a Classroom Community
- Examining the Work of Professional Authors
- Prewriting Techniques
- Generating Writing Ideas
- Building Writing Stamina

## Handwriting and Spelling

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### Handwriting:

Introduce all of the cursive letters using the Fountas & Pinnell Word Work Lessons. Letters are grouped according to similarities in how they are formed. After introducing the letters and practicing them, model how to connect letters.

### Spelling:

Spelling words taken from the Fountas & Pinnell High-Frequency Word List for Grade 4. Spelling Notebooks are used for in-class practice. One formal 20-word spelling test will be given at the end of this unit. (Two

formal spelling tests will be given each marking period. Writing rubrics also assess spelling.)

## **Enduring Understandings**

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### **Writing**

W.RW.4.7 Write routinely over extended time frames (with time for research and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### **Foundational Skills: Writing Language**

#### Spelling

L.WF.4.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of encoding and spelling.

L.WF.4.2.C Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

### **Sentence Composition (Grammar, Syntax, and Punctuation)**

L.KL.4.1 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

L.KL.4.1.A Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

L.KL.4.1.B Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

L.KL.4.1.C Choose punctuation for effect.

## **Resources**

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Being a Writer: Unit 1 Teacher's Manual

Collaborative Classroom Learning Portal (Digital Resources)

Texts:

- Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
- “Why Dreamers?” (Video)

- Grandma's Gift by Eric Velasquez
- "About Eric Velasquez" by Carrie Gentner
- Do You Know Where the Animals Live? Discovering the Incredible Creatures All Around Us by Peter Wohlleben