

# 01 Revving up Writing Muscles

Content Area: **ELA**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **13 Days**  
Status: **Published**

## UNIT ORIENTATION

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In this unit, children deepen their understanding of narrative writing and how authors take moments from their personal lives and write about them. First, students will learn that writers grab hold of particular moments, moments that stay with them, and let those moments spark ideas for their stories. Students will work with increasing independence, transferring what they have learned with teacher guidance and through shared inquiry to work that is largely self-initiated. Finally, children will devote careful attention to revision and editing, aiming to make their writing as clear and powerful as it can be.

## Enduring Understandings

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1. Writers explore and implement strategies to generate topics and develop good habits for writing.
2. Writers study published texts to learn from authors' techniques in order to raise the level of their own writing.
3. Writers use the guidance of mentor authors to craft their own pieces.
4. Writers revise and edit their writing aiming to make their writing as clear and powerful as it can be

## Essential Questions

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1. What strategies can we use to develop ideas into meaningful narratives?
2. How can we study a published text and the authors' techniques to help us raise the level of our own writing?
3. How can we use the guidance of a mentor author and transfer those skills to our own writing?
4. What role does revising and editing play in making our writing as powerful as it can be?

## CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

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LA.W.2.3

Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

LA.W.2.5	With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed through self-reflection, revising and editing.
LA.W.2.8	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
LA.SL.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.
LA.SL.2.4	Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
LA.SL.2.5	Use multimedia; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
LA.SL.2.6	Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification.
LA.L.2.1.F	Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy).
LA.L.2.2.A	Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names.
LA.L.2.2.C	Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.
LA.L.2.2.D	Generalize learned spelling patterns when writing words (e.g., cage → badge; boy → boil).

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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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.CRP2.1	Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive. They make connections between abstract concepts with real-world applications, and they make correct insights about when it is appropriate to apply the use of an academic skill in a workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
TECH.8.1.2.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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## **Alternate Assessments**

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- Portfolios
- Verbal Assessment (instead of written)
- Multiple choice
- Modified Rubrics
- Performance Based Assessments

## **Summative Assessments**

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Published Pieces

Rubrics

Open Ended Responses

Written responses

## **Formative Assessments**

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- Checklists
- Conferences
- Class Discussions
- Exit Slips
- Interactive Notebooks
- Quizzes
- Reflections
- Review of classwork/homework
- Student Participation
- Teacher Observations

- Text Dependent Questions

## **Benchmark Assessments**

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- iXL
- Dibels

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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Resources utilized but not limited to include the Units of Study (spirals) and the Curricular Calendars. Workshop related resources are embedded in the Units of Study.

Suggested Mentor Texts: Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Leaving Morning by Angela Johnson D

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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Special Education:

Provide modified notes and access to extra copies online

Provide oral reminders and check student work during independent work time

Model skills/techniques to be mastered

Check and sign assignment planner

Preferential seating

Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations

Modified or scaffolded homework and classwork

Extended time as needed

Provide graphic organizers and study guides

English Learners:

Provide scaffolded assignments and assessments

Pair visual prompts with visual presentations

Check and sign assignment planner

Extended time for assignment and assessment as needed

Highlight key vocabulary

Use graphic organizers

Provide verbal and written directions

Preferential seating with a English-speaking peer

At Risk of Failure:

Encourage class participation and reinforce skills

Model skills and assignments

Extended to time to complete class work

Preferential seating

Provide extra help outside of class and 1:1 instruction when needed

Communicate regularly with students' other teachers

Provide positive feedback for tasks well done

Encourage student to proofread assessments and projects and ask for teacher proofreading of large writing assignments

Gifted and Talented:

Pose higher-level thinking questions

Provide higher level reading and writing materials for literacy based activities

Probe student to extend thinking beyond the text or connect two or more texts

Provide alternate or project-based assessments and assignments

Students with 504 Plans

Provide extended time as needed

Modify length of writing assignment

Provide short breaks within the lesson

Provide scaffolding for students

Utilize graphic organizers

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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- Dramatization: Writers will act out their stories to ensure that not only all critical parts are included but also the story makes sense. This will be helpful during the editing and revising portion.