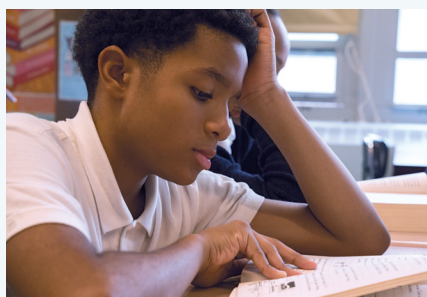


# UNITS OF STUDY *for* Teaching Reading

## A WORKSHOP CURRICULUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES



LUCY CALKINS *with Colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project*



*“This series builds on decades of teaching and research in literally tens of thousands of schools. Across the country, the Units of Study for Teaching Reading series has already given young people extraordinary power, not only as readers, but also as thinkers. When adolescents are explicitly taught the skills and strategies of proficient reading and are invited to live as richly literate people do, carrying books everywhere, bringing reading into every nook and corner of their lives, the results are dramatic.”*

—LUCY CALKINS AND MARY EHRENWORTH

*A Guide to the Reading Workshop: Middle School Grades*

### What do middle grade readers need?

We want our middle grade students to become flexible, resilient readers who read for pleasure as well as for multiple academic purposes. We want them to have a toolkit of strategies for dealing with difficulty, and we want them to know when and how to use those strategies. Not least, we want students to read broadly and deeply, alert to the intricacies of texts and to the power of language.

To accomplish such ambitious goals, we must reconsider how we think about English Language Arts classrooms and curricula. We can no longer conceive of the curriculum as a few books kids will master. Ambitious world-class standards now require that we equip students with a repertoire of skills and strategies to help them be more powerful in any text, whether print, digital, or multi-modal.

### How can we best meet those needs?

As we adapt to new instructional priorities, we must also rethink the classroom structures that support our teaching. Reading workshop offers a powerful framework that allows the teacher to listen, to assess, and to teach complex reading strategies while also coaching into each student's zone of proximal development. During each day in the reading workshop, students read for the bulk of the time, and as they do, they draw upon an ever-growing repertoire of skills, tools, strategies, and habits.

The *Units of Study for Teaching Reading* series provides teachers with the tools and support they need to teach these vital skills and to move students quickly and efficiently toward and beyond grade-level expectations, while also helping them become proficient, passionate, lifelong readers.

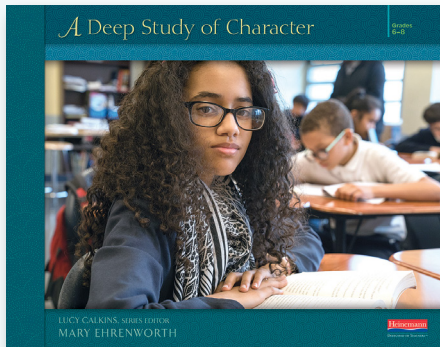
For more information, please visit [UnitsofStudy.com/MSRUOS](http://UnitsofStudy.com/MSRUOS)





# UNITS OF STUDY *for* Teaching Reading

## A WORKSHOP CURRICULUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES



Unit with Trade Pack • 978-0-325-09721-7

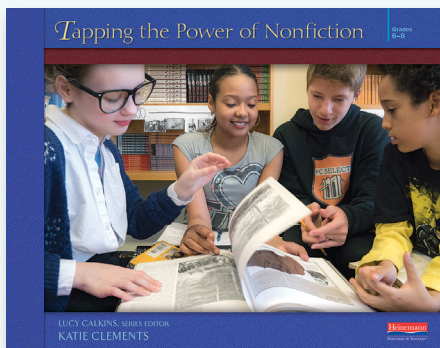
### *A Deep Study of Character*

by Mary Ehrenworth • Lucy Calkins, Series Editor

This unit serves as a primer for what it means to participate in an intense reading workshop. It introduces students to a variety of instructional methods such as read-aloud, partner work, and minilessons, and coaches both teachers and students in how to harness those methods to increase reading expertise and independence.

Students will learn to consider the ways writers reveal complex character traits, to investigate how setting shapes characters, and to analyze how characters are vehicles for themes. The unit also helps readers take charge of their reading lives and engages students with close reading, gathering text evidence, and weighing and evaluating multiple theories about complex characters.

This is an ideal unit for the beginning of the school year, offering extra support for organizing a classroom library, matching readers to books, organizing partnerships, and planning for reading workshops.



Unit with Trade Pack • 978-0-325-09722-4

On Level Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09043-6

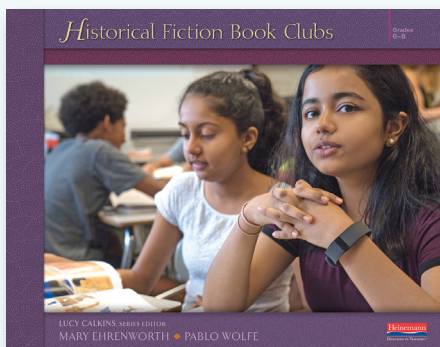
Below Benchmark Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09980-4

### *Tapping the Power of Nonfiction*

by Katie Clements • Lucy Calkins, Series Editor

Nonfiction reading skills are essential to students' achievement in virtually every academic discipline. To do science, students need to read science books and articles. To study history, they need to be skilled at reading all kinds of primary and secondary sources. When we help students become powerful readers of nonfiction, we help them become powerful learners.

Across this unit, students will develop a solid set of nonfiction reading skills: discerning central ideas, summarizing to create a concise version of a text, synthesizing within and across texts, building vocabulary, growing ideas, and reading critically to question the author's point of view and perspective. Students will also learn to develop flexibility as they read across text types, reading a variety of nonfiction chapter books, articles, trade books, and online resources, and transferring what they know from one text type to the next.



Unit with Trade Pack • 978-0-325-09924-8

On Level Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09981-1

Below Benchmark Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09982-8

### *Historical Fiction Book Clubs*

by Mary Ehrenworth & Pablo Wolfe • Lucy Calkins, Series Editor

Historical fiction helps students see how history is not a collection of old, dead facts to be memorized, but is full of compelling stories that help us understand our present and, perhaps, what we need to do to shape a better future. We hope that the reading of historical fiction in this unit will kindle for your students an interest in the genre and generate awareness of how much we have yet to learn from history and the stories of people who struggled, suffered, and persevered as we do today.

As students progress through these lessons, they will read stories from history that will expose them to hard truths about the world. They will cry out, "That's not fair!" again and again, and the teacher will respond with "You're right!" and then ask, "What kind of world do we want to live in? How do we get there?"



# LUCY CALKINS *with Colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project*

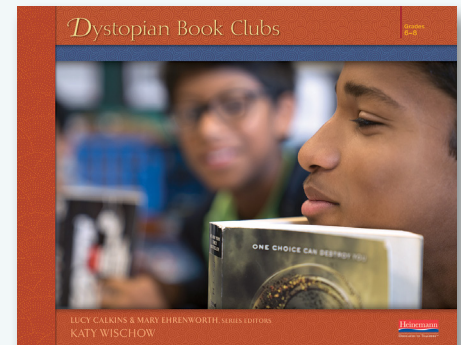
## *Dystopian Book Clubs*

by Katy Wischow

Lucy Calkins & Mary Ehrenworth, Series Editors

This unit is for teachers whose classes could benefit from a deep study of an incredibly engaging genre—dystopian fiction. It will support students who could learn to talk more deeply about their reading and push themselves to read with greater volume.

During the unit, readers will develop skills in reading more complex fiction texts: analyzing symbolism, deepening character analysis, understanding story arcs, reading critically with questions in mind. Meanwhile, students will build on their work with reading notebooks, strengthening their ability to transfer their skills from one context to another, and supporting their increasing independence as readers and thinkers.



Unit with Trade Pack • 978-0-325-09927-9  
On Level Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09045-0  
Below Benchmark Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09983-5

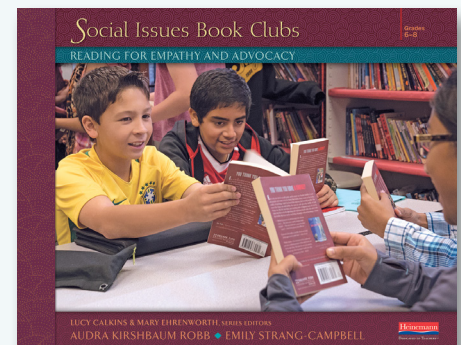
## *Social Issues Books Clubs: Reading for Empathy and Advocacy*

by Audra Kirshbaum Robb & Emily Strang-Campbell

Lucy Calkins & Mary Ehrenworth, Series Editors

The topic of social issues, the lens for reading in this unit, is one that matters greatly to the young human beings who enter our classrooms every day. In middle school, many kinds of issues start to weigh more heavily on students: relationship issues, school issues, and a growing awareness of larger societal pressures. There can be serious consequences to the spiraling troubles that surround middle school kids.

A recent *Washington Post* article titled “Does Reading Make You a Better Person?” concludes that the answer to the title question is “Yes!” Reading literature especially has proven to increase people’s ability to empathize with others, and to be more socially aware. A driving force in this unit is the power of reading to transform how we see others and to show us new ways to be kind, to connect, and to stand up for what’s right.



Unit with Trade Pack • 978-0-325-09923-1  
On Level Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09984-2  
Below Benchmark Library Shelf • 978-0-325-09985-9

**Coming in Fall 2018**

*(tentative titles; not yet available for preorder)*

- ◆ **Characterization and Author’s Craft**
- ◆ **Evidence-based Argument**

# Units of Study for Teaching Reading, Middle School Grades *New*

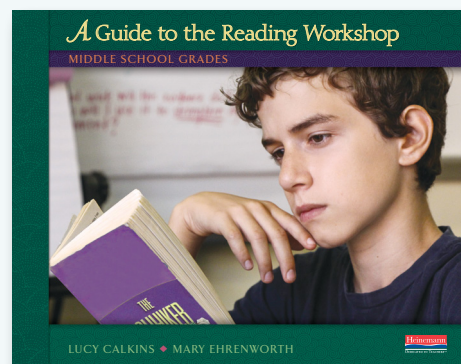
## *A Guide to the Reading Workshop: Middle School Grades*

by Lucy Calkins & Mary Ehrenworth

The *Guide to the Reading Workshop* provides a comprehensive overview of the architecture of the minilessons, conferences, and small-group strategy sessions, and articulates the management techniques needed to support an effective reading workshop.

### CONTENTS INCLUDE

- What Does Research Say Adolescent Readers Need?
- Launching and Sustaining Independent Reading
- The Big Picture of a Reading Workshop
- The Architecture (and the Principles) that Inform Minilessons
- Management Systems
- Understanding Levels of Text Complexity
- Conferring with Readers: Specific, Transferable Feedback
- Small-Group Work
- Resources to Draw upon When Conferring and Leading Strategy Lessons
- Writing about Reading
- Practical Help with Book Clubs
- Instructional Read-Aloud
- The Special Importance of Nonfiction Reading
- Supporting English Learners in Reading Workshop



*A Guide to the Reading Workshop: Middle School Grades*  
978-0-325-09725-1

### SUGGESTED SEQUENCING ACROSS GRADE LEVELS

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>A Deep Study of Character</i></li><li>• <i>Tapping the Power of Nonfiction</i></li><li>• <i>Social Issues Book Clubs</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Characterization and Author's Craft</i></li><li>• <i>Evidence-based Argument</i></li><li>• <i>Dystopian Book Clubs or Historical Fiction Book Clubs</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Historical Fiction Book Clubs or Dystopian Book Clubs</i></li><li>• <i>Additional units to come!</i></li></ul>

Of course there are many other viable options for sequencing as you begin teaching the units. Keep in mind that there is a layering of complexity across the units that you will want to consider as you plan.

### **Also Available: TCRWP Classroom Libraries**

- ◆ Complete libraries for grades 6, 7, and 8
- ◆ On level and below benchmark collections
- ◆ Individual library shelves including book club shelves
- ◆ For more details on libraries and library shelves, please visit [CalkinsLibraries.com](http://CalkinsLibraries.com)