

Elementary Reading Curriculum: Units of Study in Reading

Grade 1

Unit 1: Building Good Reading Habits			
Overview	<p>Readers will be able to independently use their learning to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • become familiar and actively participate in a reading workshop • apply good reading habits in self-selected text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ sneak peek, solving hard words, reading fluently, and rereading to learn more • build good reading habits with a partner • check for meaning during reading • reread for understanding • understand a character's point of view by making inferences <p>Enduring Understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop good reading habits for before, during, and after reading. • We will develop strategies for solving unfamiliar words. 		
Unit Learning Bends	Bend I: Good Readers Have Good Habits	Across this bend, teachers will launch the reading workshop, and introduce students to reading habits they can work to draw on without reminders: taking a sneak peek, using their phonics knowledge to tackle difficult words, monitoring for sense, and rereading.	Priority Standards across the Unit that will be addressed: RF.1.2b RF.1.3b RF.1.4a RF.1.4b RF.1.4c RI.1.1 RL.1.1
	Bend II: Using Good Habits for Making Sense of Books	Across this bend, teachers support decoding, helping kids be flexible word solvers, to draw on their knowledge of blends, word families, and vowel teams, and to self-correct to read with greater accuracy.	
	Bend III: Good Habits for Making Sense of Books	Across this bend, teachers highlight the importance of thinking about and	

		understanding the books you read, including monitoring for sense, inferring about characters, and determining point of view.	
Unit Resources	<p>Suggested Key Texts for Read Aloud and for Minilessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!</i> by Carmen Agra Deedy • <i>Rusty Plays at the Park</i> by Michele Dufresne (Pioneer Valley) • <i>The Big Hair Cut</i> by Sarah Mann (Jump Rope Readers series) 		
Lesson Topics Across the Unit	<p>Lesson 1: Readers Take a Sneak Peek Lesson 2: Readers Use Phonics to Solve Hard Words Lesson 3: Readers Read it Again Rereading to Make Sure Reading is Smooth Lesson 4: Readers Reread and Think More about a Text Lesson 5: Readers Get Strong by Reading More and More Lesson 6: Readers Build Good Habits for Solving Words Lesson 7: Sticking to Good Habits Takes Practice Lesson 8: Reading Partners Build Good Reading Habits Together Lesson 9: Check for Meaning and Fix Mistakes Lesson 10: Middles Matter: Check the Vowels Lesson 11: Slow Check: Checking all the Way through a Word Lesson 12: Readers Notice When They Are Confused and Reread to Understand Lesson 13: Studying the Pictures to Better Understand Books Lesson 14: Readers Make their Voices Match What’s Happening in the Text Lesson 15: Understanding a Character’s Point of View: Learning to Make Inferences Lesson 16: Readers Can Retell at the End of a Book Lesson 17: Readers Celebrate and Set New Goals</p>		
Unit 2: Word Detectives			
Overview	<p>Readers will be able to independently use their learning to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor their reading, paying attention to all parts of the word • decode words with endings -s and -ing • problem solve the vowel sounds in words • flex vowel sounds with vowel teams <p>Enduring Understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers use strategies to help understand and figure out tricky words. • Readers monitor their reading to help them understand what they are reading. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers reread what they have read to help make their reading sound like talking. 		
Unit Learning Bends	Bend I: Word Detectives in Training	In this bend, teachers will teach readers to monitor their reading to identify when something is wrong. Teachers will celebrate this close and careful reading with students and communicate confidence in readers' abilities to solve reading problems independently. Children will learn to look carefully at the words in the text and use visual information in more complex ways. As word detectives, students will draw on everything they know to solve problems they encounter.	Priority Standards across the Unit that will be addressed: RF.1.2a RF.1.2b RF.1.2c RF.1.2d RF.1.3a RF.1.3b RF.1.3c RF.1.3d RF.1.3e RF.1.3f
	Bend II: Looking Closely at Vowels in Words	In this bend, teachers will continue to lean on the "Solve It-Check It" chart introduced during Unit 1 to encourage students to use what they know about vowels (and what they are learning during phonics time) to help them decode words. Children will be taught to be flexible with short and long vowel sounds to make sure the word makes sense. Teachers will also introduce some common endings to help readers read more words.	

	Bend III: Looking Closely to Solve Longer Words	In this bend, teachers will teach students to use visual information more effectively to solve unknown words. Students will read closely and break words into word parts and syllables to support decoding.	
Unit Resources	<p>Suggested Key Texts for Read Aloud and for Minilessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This is Liann (Jump Rope Reader text)</i> • <i>A Crocodile and a Whale</i> by Annette Smith • <i>Tiny and the Big Wave</i> by Annette Smith <p>Suggested Unit Reader Titles: The Case of the Lost Cape, The Case of the Missing Cake, The Case of the Beep, Cupcake</p>		
Lesson Topics across the Unit	<p>Lesson 1: Word Detectives Are Always on the Lookout Lesson 2: Word Detectives Look Closely Lesson 3: Looking Closely at Endings Lesson 4: Noticing and Understanding New Vocabulary Lesson 5: Zooming in to Look Closely, Zooming Out to Understand Lesson 6: Using Words We Know in a Snap to Make Reading Sound Smooth Lesson 7: Studying Words Closely Lesson 8: Watching Out for Silent E Lesson 9: Solving Mystery Words Lesson 10: Watching Out for Vowel Teams Lesson 11: Learning to Be Flexible: Using Phonics Knowledge to Try a Vowel Sound Another Way Lesson 12: Word Detectives Don't Give Up: Reread and Look Again Lesson 13: Zooming Out to Make Predictions Lesson 14: Solving Longer Words: Noticing Double Consonants Lesson 15: Watching Out for Compound Words Lesson 16: Breaking off the Ending to Solve Longer Words Lesson 17: Zooming Out to Retell</p>		
Unit 3: Learning about the World			
Overview	<p>Readers will be able to independently use their learning to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • look closely at text to ask questions and learn more • read longer words part by part • identify the main topic and supporting details of text by retelling or summarizing • engage in cross-text synthesis to build knowledge 		

	<p>Enduring Understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop good reading habits for reading nonfiction. • We will develop strategies for solving unfamiliar words. 		
<p>Unit Learning Bends</p>	<p>Bend I: Nonfiction Readers Approach Books (and the World) with Curiosity and Wonder</p>	<p>In this bend, teachers will teach students important habits for starting, reading, and finishing books emphasizing how this work can sometimes go differently when reading nonfiction text. Students will learn the importance of slowing down to look closely at the details in the pictures, as well as the text. Teachers will support readers in using everything they've learned about phonics to read the words in their books.</p>	<p>Priority Standards across the Unit that will be addressed:</p> <p>RF.1.4b RI.1.10 RI.1.2 RI.1.5 RI.1.7</p>
<p>Bend II: Learning Together</p>	<p>Over the course of this bend, teachers will help students understand how to use nonfiction reading skills to read several texts on the same topic. Students will develop their own ideas about their topics through partnerships. Teachers will also spiral back to decoding, explicitly teaching high-utility vowel teams and a strategy for how to read words with Y at the end.</p>		
<p>Bend III: Learners Become Teachers</p>	<p>In this bend, teachers will channel students to build</p>		

		fluency, synthesize information to teach it clearly, and to grow their own ideas about their topics.	
Unit Resources	<p>Suggested Key Texts for Read Aloud and for Minilessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bees</i> by Laura Marsh • <i>Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns</i> by Hena Khan • <i>Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr or The White Nights of Ramadan</i> • <i>The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter</i> by Shabazz Larkin • <i>Meet the Snake</i>, unit reader 		
Lesson Topics across the Unit	<p>Lesson 1: Curiosity: An Essential Reading Skill Lesson 2: Looking Closely to Learn Lesson 3: Curious Readers Ask Questions Lesson 4: Reading Longer Words, Part by Part Lesson 5: Nonfiction Readers Are Curious about Words Lesson 6: Nonfiction Readers Retell to Make Sure They Understand Their Books Lesson 7: Celebrating Curiosity Lesson 8: When Readers Are Really Curious, They Read More Than One Book about a Topic Lesson 9: Sharing Books with Others Lesson 10: Key Words Help Readers Unlock More Learning about a Topic Lesson 11: New Vowel Teams Can Unlock Even More Words (<i>AI, AY, OA</i>) Lesson 12: Looking Closely at a Curious Word Part: The Letter <i>Y</i> Lesson 13: Readers Add Their Own Thinking to Their Text Sets Lesson 14: Readers Learn, and Then They Teach Lesson 15: Nonfiction Readers Read with Feeling Lesson 16: Using Writing Strategies to Teach Others Lesson 17: Learning Leads to New Ideas, Feelings, and Action</p>		
Unit 4: Readers Have Big Jobs to Do			
Overview	<p>Readers will be able to independently use their learning to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notice problems on the run and use what they know to fix them up • balance the challenges of decoding and maintaining meaning • work on their prosody to convey the emotion and feeling of a text <p>Enduring Understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers use pictures and words to make a movie in their mind of their reading. • Readers use strategies when they get stuck while reading. • Readers use words they know to solve unknown words. 		

Unit Learning Bends	Bend I: Readers Have Important Jobs to Do: Monitoring	In this bend, teachers will empower students in the understanding that they are the boss of their own reading. Teachers will remind students to monitor their reading, stop at the first sign of trouble, and implement a strategy to tackle the trouble. Students will become the boss of their own reading to draw on phonics knowledge and comprehension strategies.	<p>Priority Standards across the Unit that will be addressed:</p> <p>RF.1.2a RF.1.2b RF.1.2c RF.1.2d RF.1.3a RF.1.3b RF.1.3c RF.1.3d RF.1.3e RF.1.3f</p>
	Bend II: Readers Work Hard to Understand Their Books: Envisioning	Throughout this bend, students will learn to read in a way that strengthens their comprehension of text by paying close attention to all the details in a text. Teachers will encourage students to read with story structure in mind and to use the words on the page to unfreeze the illustrations to bring them to life. In addition, this bend also will have students strengthening their decoding skills in continuous text.	
	Bend III: Readers Use Everything They Know to Get the Job Done: Decoding and Fluency	In this last bend, teachers will focus specifically on reviewing and applying knowledge of harder vowel digraphs that students encounter in words. This bend will	

		nudge students into the consolidated alphabetic phase of reading. Students will move away from decoding words sound by sound, instead seeing bigger chunks in words to read them more efficiently. The bend wraps up with work around fluency as they investigate what makes reading sound great.	
Unit Resources	Suggested Key Texts for Read Aloud and Minilessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Big Book of the Blue</i> by Yuval Zommer • <i>The Dinosaur Chase</i> by Hugh Price • <i>The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story</i> by Tina Cho • <i>Soojin Draws a Story</i> by Elizabeth Franco (Jump Rope Reader) 		
Lesson Topics across the Unit	Lesson 1: Be the Boss of Your Reading: Notice Clunks and Fix Them Up Lesson 2: Solving Words with <i>R</i> -Controlled Vowels Lesson 3: Readers Notice When They Don't Understand: Retelling Along the Way Lesson 4: Figuring Out Vocabulary Clunks Lesson 5: Readers Check to Confirm They're Back on Track Lesson 6: Readers Get Help When They Need It Lesson 7: Readers Keep the Story in Their Mind Lesson 8: Readers Imagine Everything That's Happening: Making the Pictures Move Lesson 9: Readers Imagine Everything to Learn More Lesson 10: Readers Need to Be Flexible: Solving Words with Vowel Teams Lesson 11: Readers Work Hard to Understand New Vocabulary Lesson 12: Using Background Knowledge to Better Understand a Book Lesson 13: Readers Learn about a Special Word Part: <i>OU</i> Lesson 14: Readers Need to Be Flexible with Vowel Teams Lesson 15: Readers Use the Biggest Parts They Know to Solve Words Lesson 16: Reading Words That End in <i>LE</i> Lesson 17: Readers Investigate New Ways to Make Their Reading Sound Great Lesson 18: Readers Use Their Voices to Show the Feeling		
Unit 5: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons			
Overview	Students will be able to independently use their learning to...		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • solidify phonics concepts (CVCe, vowel teams, inflectional endings, and R-controlled vowels) • retell by flagging the most important parts of a text • study character actions, talk, and expressions to determine how a character might feel • give evidence to back up ideas about characters <p>Enduring Understandings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know a character better, readers pay attention to the relationships in the story. • Readers know that when books take you on reading adventures, you almost become the character, changing your voice to show what the character is feeling. • Readers mark important parts in their books to retell the story. • Readers notice the lessons in their books by paying attention to what the character learns in the story. • Readers use what is happening in the story to predict what will come next. 		
<p>Unit Learning Bends</p>	<p>Bend I: Readers Go on Adventures</p>	<p>In this bend, teachers will capture kids’ energy for exploring new worlds and books. Students will fill their toolkits with strategies to apply during their reading adventures. Students will track what is happening as well as when and where those events are happening in the books they read. Students will reread, retell, and practice connecting story parts. Teachers will introduce a new strategy of flagging the most important parts of a story with sticky notes to support retelling work.</p>	<p>Priority Standards across the Unit that will be addressed:</p> <p>RL.1.1 RL.1.2 RL.1.3 RL.1.4</p>
<p>Bend II: Learning About and Alongside Characters</p>	<p>During this bend, teachers will rally students to the</p>		

		<p>important work of studying characters closely by studying words and pictures to notice what characters say and do along with their likes and dislikes. Students will also pay close attention to quotation marks and dialogue tags. Teachers will also engage students in work to think about what texts teach characters and us as readers.</p>	
	<p>Bend III: Comparing and Contrasting Characters and Their Adventures</p>	<p>In this last bend, teachers will rally students to work on rereading their books, noticing ways the characters they've read about are similar to one another. Students will make connections to their own lives, noticing ways they connect to their characters that they might not have realized at first. Teachers will encourage students to zoom in on character feelings/problems comparing them to another character's feelings/problems.</p>	
<p>Unit Resources</p>	<p>Suggested Key Texts for Read Aloud and Mini-Lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bradford Street Buddies: Backyard Camp-Out</i> by Jerdine Nolen • <i>Swashby and the Sea</i> by Beth Ferry <p>Jump Rope Readers Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Soojin Stands Out</i> by Elizabeth Franco <p>Unit Readers Titles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Case of the Beep</i> 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The New Puppy</i>
Lesson Topics across the Unit	<p>Lesson 1: Readers Preview Stories to Get Ready for Reading Adventures</p> <p>Lesson 2: Readers Use the Storyline to Predict</p> <p>Lesson 3: Readers Retell to Retain the Story</p> <p>Lesson 4: Readers Can Teach Themselves New Phonics</p> <p>Lesson 5: Readers Revisit Book to Notice More</p> <p>Lesson 6: Learning about Characters in Books</p> <p>Lesson 7: Characters’ Feelings Matter</p> <p>Lesson 8: Reading Dialogue and Figuring Out Who Is Speaking</p> <p>Lesson 9: Using Both Sounds of C and G to Read More Words</p> <p>Lesson 10: Bringing Your Characters to Life</p> <p>Lesson 11: Characters’ Actions Can Teach Us So Much</p> <p>Lesson 12: Characters Learn Lessons, and We Can Too!</p> <p>Lesson 13: Readers Compare Their Reading Adventures</p> <p>Lesson 14: Focusing Our Character Comparisons</p> <p>Lesson 15: Exploring Special Ways Characters Are Different</p> <p>Lesson 16: Breaking Multisyllabic Words into Parts to Read Them Well</p> <p>Lesson 17: Readers Check Up on Words They Know in a Snap</p> <p>Lesson 18: Comparing Feelings across Books and Our Lives</p>

Suggested Titles for First Grade Read Aloud

- *Amazing Bees* by Sue Unstead
- *Baby Animals with Their Families* by Suzi Eszterhas
- *Benji, the Bad Day, and Me* by Sally J. Pla
- *Beware of the Crocodile* by Martin Jenkins
- *Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and their Parents* by Lita Judge
- *Coral Reefs* by Sylvia Earle
- *Harriet Gets Carried Away* by Jessie Sima
- *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* by Candace Fleming
- *I Will Try* by Marilyn Janovitz
- *Lola Levine is Not Mean* by Monica Brown
- *Meerkats* by Laura Marsh
- *Salma the Syrian Chef* by Danny Ramadan
- *The Big Book of the Blue* by Yuval Zommer
- *The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World’s Coral Reefs* by Kate Messner
- *The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story* by Tina Cho
- *The Rooster Who Would Not be Quiet* by Carmen Agra Deedy
- *The Sandwich Swap* by Queen Rania Al Abdullah and Kelly DiPucchio
- *The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter* by Shabazz Larkin
- *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischman
- *Whose Baby Butt* by Stan Tekiela