

Reading

In first grade reading is taught through the Reading Workshop Structure consisting of whole group teacher directed mini-lessons, individual and small group work, independent daily reading opportunities, partnership reading opportunities and whole group share time. Lessons are both teacher and student directed. The shared philosophy of Readers Workshop provides assessment based instruction tailored to students' strengths and needs, opportunities for students to talk and write about their reading experiences, reading high interest, accessible books at the student's level of choosing, opportunities for long stretches of reading time, as well as having teachers who demonstrate a love of reading.

Unit 1: Building Good Reading Habits

This unit focuses on helping first graders develop strong reading routines and habits that will support them throughout their reading lives. Students learn to choose books that are just right for them, set reading goals, and practice reading with stamina and focus. Emphasis is placed on strategies for tackling tricky words, rereading for understanding, and thinking about stories deeply. The unit also fosters a sense of identity as capable and enthusiastic readers.

Unit 2: Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction

In this unit, students explore nonfiction texts to learn about the world around them. They develop skills for reading informational books, such as using text features (headings, labels, captions) and identifying main ideas and details. First graders practice asking questions and synthesizing information to build understanding. This unit builds curiosity and confidence in reading nonfiction, supporting content knowledge alongside literacy skills.

Unit 3: Readers Have Big Jobs to Do

This unit teaches students that readers play active roles in making meaning from texts. First graders learn to solve problems when reading becomes difficult, such as using strategies to decode words, figure out tricky parts of a story, and understand characters' feelings and motivations. They also learn to monitor their comprehension and adjust their reading strategies to improve understanding. The unit encourages readers to take responsibility for their reading and become thoughtful problem-solvers.

Unit 4: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons

In this unit, students focus on understanding characters deeply and learning important lessons from stories. They practice noticing characters' feelings, actions, and changes, and think about how these elements help the story's meaning. First graders learn to talk and write about what characters teach them, making connections between the story and their own lives. This unit nurtures empathy, comprehension, and critical thinking through literature.

Writing

In first grade writing is taught via Writers Workshop using the *Units of Study for Primary Writing: A Yearlong Curriculum*, otherwise known as the Lucy Calkins series. Each unit is devised with lessons that help build a student's instructional level for writing. The writing curriculum is tied into the literacy portion of our curriculum to help enrich student writing. Throughout the units students will see themselves as writers using their everyday experiences as starting points for their stories. Structures and routines are established for students to choose topics, plan for writing and draft their stories.

Unit 1: Small Moments

This unit helps first graders develop the skill of writing detailed personal stories about small, meaningful moments from their own lives. Students learn to zoom in on a single event, use sequential storytelling, and add details through words and illustrations. The unit focuses on helping young writers organize their stories with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and encourages them to use feelings and descriptions to bring their stories to life.

Unit 2: Nonfiction Chapter Books

In this unit, students explore nonfiction writing through the creation of chapter books on topics they know and care about. First graders learn to gather facts, organize information into chapters or sections, and include illustrations, labels, and diagrams to teach readers. The unit encourages students to think like experts and teachers, developing clear and informative writing that helps others learn.

Unit 3: Writing Reviews

This unit introduces students to writing reviews as a way to share opinions and recommendations about books, toys, movies, or other favorite things. First graders practice stating their opinions clearly and supporting them with reasons and examples. They learn to write with an audience in mind and to persuade others through their writing, developing voice and purpose.

Unit 4: From Scenes to Series: Writing Fiction

In this unit, students dive into writing fiction by crafting stories with rich scenes and developing characters over time. First graders learn to create a series of stories about the same characters, focusing on realistic problems and solutions. They practice writing dialogue, using descriptive details, and structuring stories with a clear sequence of events. The unit encourages creativity and helps students build confidence as storytellers.