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Nonfiction Writing Lesson  
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# **Lucy Calkins**

## **Nonfiction Writing**

### **Lesson Plans**

"Writing allows each of us to live with that special wide-awakeness that comes from knowing that our lives and our ideas are worth writing about." -Lucy Calkins

Teaching Writing is Lucy Calkins at her best—a distillation of the work that's placed Lucy and her colleagues at the forefront of the teaching of writing for over thirty years. This book promises to inspire teachers to teach with renewed passion and power and to invigorate the entire school day. This is a book

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for readers who want an introduction to the writing workshop, and for those who've lived and breathed this work for decades. Although Lucy addresses the familiar topics-the writing process, conferring, kinds of writing, and writing assessment- she helps us see those topics with new eyes. She clears away the debris to show us the teeny details, and she shows us the majesty and meaning, too, in these simple yet powerful teaching acts. Download a sample chapter for more information. Focused instruction on important nonfiction writing forms! Contains eighty lessons for teaching students the craft of nonfiction

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writing, each with a discussion of the lesson, directions on how to teach it, and resource material; grouped by grade level, including kindergarten through second, third and fourth, and fifth through eighth.

Units of Study in Phonics

Nonfiction Writing

A Common Core Workshop

Curriculum

Tackling Complexity

Your Guide to Every Day Literacy

Teaching: Grade 3

Enriching Reading and Writing

Instruction with Children's Books

*Instruction in this series is organized around four grade-specific units of study at each level and a*

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*book of if/then curricular plans. The four units of study at each grade level are organized around opinion, information, and narrative writing. Each unit of study contains 18-22 sequential sessions subdivided into three to four bends, with each bend walking you step-by-step through the entire writing process from planing and drafting to revising and editing and eventually to publication. The grade-specific book If ... then ... curriculum : assessment-based instruction supports*

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*targeted instruction and differentiation with alternative assessment-based units. Each includes five to eight concise units of study for you to strategically teach before, after (or in-between) the core curriculum based on your students needs.*

*Grade 4 bundled set from Heinemann Publishing.*

*Part of a series of units as part of a year-long curriculum based in primary writing.*

*Units of Study for Teaching Reading  
Grades 3-5*

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*Up the Ladder Reading  
Lab Reports and Science  
Books*

*An A From Miss Keller*

***"In second grade, children move from a "little-kid" focus on print to a "big-kid" focus on meaning. The first unit, Second-Grade Reading Growth Spurt, teaches children to take charge of their reading, drawing on everything they know to figure out hard words, understand author's craft, and build big ideas about the books they read. Children learn that books can be their teachers in the***

***second unit, Becoming Experts: Reading Nonfiction, in which they learn more about familiar topics and grow understanding of new topics while working on word solving, vocabulary development, and comparing and contrasting information across texts. In the third unit, Bigger Books Mean Amping Up Reading Power, children learn strategies to build three foundational reading skills--fluency, understanding figurative language, and comprehension. In the final***

***unit for second grade, Series Book Clubs, children work within book clubs to study author's craft to understand ways authors use word choice, figurative language, punctuation, and even patterns to construct a series and evoke feelings in readers"--Pearson.com.***

***What happens when a bestselling nonfiction children's book author pairs up with a nationally known writing teacher to discuss revision strategies? Magic. Sneed B. Collard III and Vicki Spandel blow the roof off everything you thought you knew about teaching***



***nonfiction writing and the purposes for revision. Dozens of strategy lessons pulled from Sneed's professional writing experience followed by Vicki's classroom-savvy tips and exercises give you the nuts and bolts of teaching revision to make nonfiction writing more meaningful, useful, and enjoyable for the reader. Using a "big-to-small" process of revision, from Big Picture ideas down to individual words, Sneed and Vicki demystify revision and help students become clear, persuasive, compelling-even***

***entertaining-writers. "With your encouragement and guidance," they write, "students will discover the joy of turning their first rough ideas into something readers cannot put down." When It Comes to Reading, Writers Have an Advantage We know that writing skills reinforce reading skills, but what's the best way to capitalize on this relationship? By flipping the traditional "reading lesson first, writing lesson second" sequence, Colleen Cruz helps you make the most of the writing-to-reading connection with 50***

***carefully matched lesson pairs centered around non-fiction texts. Lessons can be implemented either as a complete curriculum or as a supplement to an existing program. Complete with suggestions on adapting the lessons to suit the needs of your classroom and individual students, Writers Reader Better offers a solid foundation for giving your students the advantage of transferable literacy skills.***

***Grade 2***

***Teaching Writing***

***The Art of Information***

***Writing***

***Teaching Nonfiction***

## **Revision**

### ***The Conferring Handbook Nonfiction Writing, Grade 4***

Part of a series of primary writing units within a yearlong curriculum

"The start of first grade is a time for dusting off the skills and habits that children learned during kindergarten.

In the first unit, Building Good Reading Habits, you'll reinforce children's learning from kindergarten, and you'll establish ability-based partnerships that tap into the social power of peers working together to help each other become more strategic as readers. The second unit, Learning About the World: Reading Nonfiction, taps into children's natural curiosity as they explore nonfiction, while you teach comprehension strategies, word

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solving, vocabulary, fluency, and author's craft. The third unit, Readers Have Big Jobs to Do: Fluency, Phonics, and Comprehension, focuses on the reading process to set children up to read increasingly complex texts. The last unit of first grade, Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons: A Study of Story Elements, spotlights story elements and the skills that are foundational to literal and inferential comprehension, including empathy, imagination, envisioning, prediction, character study, and interpretation"--provided by publisher. "Up the Ladder Reading: Nonfiction is for upper-grade readers-and teachers-who are new to the norms and culture of reading workshop, and for readers who would benefit from foundational

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instruction in the skills of reading nonfiction. By instilling strong habits and routines, this unit will support students in taking charge of their own reading lives and reading nonfiction with curiosity and engagement as they learn deeply about the world around them"--

Nonfiction Craft Lessons

Explorations in Nonfiction Writing

Units of Study in Opinion,

Information, and Narrative Writing

50+ Paired Lessons That Turn Writing

Craft Work Into Powerful Genre

Reading

A Professional Writer Shares

Strategies, Tips, and Lessons

A Guide to the Teachers College

Reading and Writing Project

Classroom Libraries

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Part of a collection of units within a year-long primary writing curriculum

Designed to teach nonfiction writing to 5th graders, including extended writing units to be used for research projects, and also shorter minilessons to teach a wider variety of nonfiction writing.

Posters are to be used in conjunction with selected mentor texts.

The companion CD-ROM contains a wide variety of resources to support

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the material in this set, as well as full color versions of the mentor texts found in the black and white print version of the same.

How did Patricia Polacco become a writer? A perfect companion to the classic *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, *The Art of Miss Chew*, and *Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece*, this book celebrates a teacher who inspired a young Patricia Polacco to become the writer and storyteller she is



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today. Trisha is nervous about being chosen for Miss Keller's writing class. "Killer Keller" demands that her students dazzle her with their writing, and rumor has it that she has never given an A. The rumors turn out to be all too true—there's just no pleasing Miss Keller. Then an unexpected loss leaves Trisha heartbroken. Thoughts of teachers and grades forgotten, she pours out her soul in a personal narrative. And

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when Miss Keller reads it, she tells Trisha, “You’ve given your words wings.”

Tapping the Power of Nonfiction

Authors as Mentors

Units of Study for

Teaching Reading:

Building good reading habits

Writing for Readers

Reading Nonfiction

Nonfiction Chapter Books

***Peter Rabbit is stuck in bed with a cold and unable to attend the festivities at the Three Little Pigs' housewarming, which is threatened by the havoc-wreaking Big Bad Wolf.***

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***Reprint.***

***Once upon a time, nonfiction books for children routinely included concise, stodgy writing. Most of the books were text heavy, with just a few scattered images decorating, rather than enhancing, the content and meaning. But nonfiction has changed dramatically over the last two decades, evolving into a new breed of visually dynamic, engaging texts that delight as well as inform. The timing of these groundbreaking changes couldn't be better, as English Language Arts standards now put an increased focus on nonfiction reading and writing. For decades, we've classified fiction as a way to study, understand, and, ultimately, teach it better. However, up to now, nonfiction hasn't received***

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*this same level of intention. In 5 Kinds of Nonfiction: Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction with Children's Books, Melissa Stewart and Marlene Correia present a new way to sort nonfiction into five major categories and show how doing so can help teachers and librarians build stronger readers and writers. Along the way, they: introduce the 5 kinds of nonfiction--active, browseable, traditional, expository literature, and narrative--and explore each category through discussions, classroom examples, and insights from leading children's book authors; offer tips for building strong, diverse classroom and library collections; provide more than 20 activities to enhance literacy instruction; and include innovative*

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*strategies for sharing and celebrating nonfiction with students. With more than 150 exemplary nonfiction book recommendations and Stewart and Correia's extensive knowledge of literacy instruction, 5 Kinds of Nonfiction will elevate your understanding of nonfiction in ways that speak specifically to the info-kids in your classrooms, but will inspire all readers and writers.*

*Grades K-2 Lucy and her colleagues have helped hundreds of thousands of teachers take their first forays into the teaching of writing. Units of Study provides easy access to the magic of their teaching by presenting minute-by-minute, live-from-the-classroom coaching as they show you how to refine your lessons to meet the needs*

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*of the curious minds that you teach.*

*Units of Study for Primary Writing includes:*

- \* The Overview: In The Nuts and Bolts of Teaching Writing, Lucy equips you to organize a productive, well-managed writing workshop, introduces the methods that underlie all writing instruction, and helps you plan a yearlong curriculum in the teaching of writing.*
- \* Seven Units of Study: Each of the seven Units of Study supports 4-6 weeks of a yearlong curriculum. Lucy and her co-authors give you goals and assessment rubrics for each unit as well as the language of the minilessons within that unit.*

*Launching the Writing Workshop*

*Small Moments: Personal Narrative*

*Writing Writing for Readers:*

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*Teaching Skills and Strategies The Craft of Revision Authors as Mentors Nonfiction Writing: Procedures and Reports Poetry: Powerful Thoughts in Tiny Packages \* The Conferring Handbook: Lucy and her colleagues offer 21 key conferences to support the Units of Study. They offer the words, the structures, and the reasons for these conferences so you can easily conduct them in your own classroom. \* Resources for Primary Writing - CD ROM: Watch Lucy and her colleagues teach some of the powerful lessons they detail in the units. Also find reproducibles, checklists, booklists, additional lessons, and invaluable time-saving resources. Also available: a unique, cost-saving supplementary Lucy*

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*Calkins Professional Development  
Pack / Grades K-3 / 0131982400*

*Coming soon! Lucy Calkins takes  
writing instruction to a higher level  
with Units of Study for Teaching  
Reading and Writing, Grades 3-5*

*May, 2005 / Grades 3-5 / 0325008701*

*Dear Peter Rabbit*

*The Reading Minilessons Book*

*Teaching Information Writing K-8*

*Teaching Skills and Strategies*

*Writers Read Better: Nonfiction*

*Writing Reviews*

This series of books is designed to help upper elementary teachers teach a rigorous yearlong writing curriculum.

"The new Units of study in phonics provide a lean and concise instructional pathway in



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phonics that is realistic and doable, and that taps into kids' skills and energy for tackling the fabulous challenge of learning to read and write, introduce high-leverage phonics concepts and strategies in a way that keeps pace with students' reading and writing and helps them understand when, how, and why they can use phonics to read and write, offer delightfully fun and engaging storylines, classroom mascots, songs, chants, rhymes, and games to help students fall head over heels in love with phonics and to create a joyous community of learners, align with state-of-the-art reading and

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writing workshops for a coherent approach in which terminology, tools, rituals, and methods are shared in ways that benefit both teachers and kids."--provided by publisher.

Part of a year-long curriculum of units about primary writing  
Units of Study for Primary  
Writing

Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction

A Guide to the Writing Workshop

5 Kinds of Nonfiction

Grade K

Grade 1

Lucy Calkins and her colleagues from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project have helped hundreds of thousands of teachers launch and

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implement rigorous and responsive reading and writing workshops. Now they have written an unprecedented curriculum for the reading workshop--Units of Study for Teaching Reading. Organized within a carefully crafted spiraling curriculum, sequential units of study model the teaching moves and language Lucy and her colleagues use to teach their students how to read with increasing sophistication and personal engagement.

"Engages students in inquiry that leads to the discovery and understanding of a general principle they can apply to their own independent reading" --  
Nonfiction Chapter Books  
Firsthand Books  
Becoming Experts  
Reading Nonfiction  
Teaching

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Writing Heinemann Educational Books

Becoming Experts

Small Moments

Explorations in Nonfiction Writing:

Explorations in nonfiction writing.

Grade 5 : mentor text poster pack

Writing

Procedures and Reports

Bringing History to Life

*"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 documents and sources.*

*When we help students become powerful readers of nonfiction, we help them become powerful learners. Across this unit, students will develop*

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*a solid set of nonfiction reading skills including: discerning central ideas; summarizing to create a concise version of a text; synthesizing within and across texts; building vocabulary; and reading critically to question an author's point of view and perspective. At the same time, students develop flexibility as they read across text types and transfer what they know from one type of text to the next. Throughout the unit, students learn to grow their ideas and work collaboratively around high-interest text and topics"--page 4 of cover.*

*Nonfiction*

*Writing with Focus, Detail, and Dialogue*

*Up the Ladder: Accessing Grades 3-6 Narrative Units of Study*