

**Units of Study in the Writing Workshop**  
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**Ways Literature Enters the Writing Workshop**

- Introduce What Writers Do – Living Like a Writer
- Launching Writer’s Notebooks
- Understanding Text Structures & Genres
- Using Author’s as Mentors – Craft
- Creating Criteria for Quality Writing

**Unit of Study: Being a Writer**

- Writers Write
- Writers Read
- Writers Do Research
- Writers Revise & Publish
- Writers Write Drafts
- Writers Sketch Ideas
- Writers Gather the World
- Writers Play with Language
- Writers Use Writing
- Writers Use Notebooks

**Class Chart: What Do Writers Do?**

Writers write everyday  
Writers keep ideas in their notebook  
Writers observe things and take notes  
Writers do research  
Writers talk to other writers about ideas  
Writers write things more than once  
Writers read a lot!  
Writers use the dictionary and thesaurus  
Writers pay attention to language  
Writers use their imagination  
Writers play with language  
Writers read differently  
Writers draw and sketch things

**Launching Writers’ Notebooks**

Share Your Own Notebook / Other Writers Share Notebooks  
Invite Students to Buy Own Notebook  
Make List of Possible Things to Include  
Provide Time for Notebooks  
Mini-Lessons on Keeping a Notebook  
Teacher- Student Notebook Conferences  
Sharing Notebooks in Author’s Chair

## **Units of Study**

Time spent with a focus on a particular genre, topic, theme, etc. to help students develop a sense of *Preferred Vision* for what a piece of writing can be.

## **Units of Study Framework**

### ***Exposure***

Immersion - Becoming Familiar with a Particular Form of Writing / Text

### ***Exploration***

Discussing the Craft, Elements and Structures of a Form of Writing / Text

### ***Engagement***

Engaging with a Particular Form of Writing / Text

## **Creating A Unit of Study**

- Decide What the Focus Is
- Negotiate Mandated Curriculum
- Consider Students' Prior Experiences
- Possible Links to the Curriculum
- Gather Resources
- Design Writing Lessons
- Publication Opportunities

## **Planning Units of Study**

- What genres, etc are required at your grade level?
- What experiences have your students had, not had each year?
- What genres, types of writing are your strengths?
- What resources are available to you?
- What are the "Big" Units of Study? What might be the lesser units of study?

## **A Unit of Study on Poetry**

### **Misconceptions of Poetry**

- All poems rhyme
- All poems have specific formulas to follow
- Poetry is for girls
- All poems have hidden meanings
- Poems have to be memorized
- Great poems are written by dead white men

### **Exposure Phase**

Read-Share-Discuss Poetry

What Poetry Is... Bulletin Board

Access to Poetry

Poetic Vs. Generic Language

Create Student Poetry Collection

Search for Poetic Language

### **Writing Lessons: Exposure 1**

- Reading Aloud / Discussing Poetry
- Create a Poetry Library (Access)
- Poem Du Jour
- Copies for Students to Keep
- Poems on Tape
- Invited Readers Share Favorite Poems

### **Writing Lessons: Exposure 2**

- Looking in Notebooks for Poetic Language
- Noticings - Picture Book Hunt
- Beginning Class Collections
- Biographies and Info about Poets
- Discovering Anthologies
- Invitations to Write Poetry
- Class Chart: What is Poetry?

### **Exploration Phase**

Criteria for Quality Poetry  
Forms / Formats  
Apply Criteria to our Poetry  
Poetry "Exercises"  
Exploring Poetic Devices  
"Noticings" Charts

### **Writing Lessons: Exploration**

- Create Criteria for Quality Writing
- Explore Elements of Poetry
- Poetry "Exercises"
- Poetry ToolBoxes
- Possible Poetry Formats
- Author's (Poet's) Chair Continues
- Expectations to Write Poetry
- Georgia Heard

### **Poetry Toolbox 1: Meanings**

- Imagery
- Using Senses
- Comparing Things
- Choosing Poetic Language
- Expressing Feelings
- Personification

### **Poetry Toolbox 2: Sounds & Shapes**

- Rhyme
- Rhythm

- Alliteration
- Onomatopoeia
- Repetition / Patterns
- Songs
- Line breaks
- Unit of Study: Poetry

### **Engagement Phase**

- Present Publishing Opportunities
- Poetry Conferences
- Publishing Class Poetry Books
- Selecting Poetry for Portfolios
- Celebrations - Young Poets Day
- Deadlines Set for Completed Poems

### **Publishing Opportunities: "Go Public"**

- Class Poetry Books
- Poetry Contests
- Newsletters
- Author's Chair
- Young Poets' Day
- Publish Own Anthology
- School Collections
- Class Poetry Book
- Class Poetry Book
- Newsletters
- Authors as Mentors

### **Studying Craft**

- Authors as Mentors
- Reading Like a Writer
- Immersion in a Particular Author's Work
- Exploring Craft & Writer's Style
- Use of Mentor Texts
- Decide on Aspects to Draw Upon
- This is NOT Cheating, It is What Writers DO!
- Quality Writing

### **What Criteria Do Writers Use?**

- Negotiating Criteria for Quality Writing
- Standards documents
- Writing Awards Criteria
- Teachers' Knowledge
- Examples from Literature
- 6 Traits
- Community Ideas & Norms

## **Unit of Study Template**

<b>Central Focus</b>
<b>Cornerstone Text</b>
<b>Unit Objectives (CC Standards)</b>
<b>Learning Experiences (LEXPs)</b>
<b>Culminating Experience</b>
<b>Resources Needed</b>

