

Unit of Study: Informational Writing and Research for 3rd-5th Grades

Based on the format of
Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Teaching Writing Grade 3-5

Developed by

Mary Bolt, Writing Consultant

Julie Kitchel, 3rd grade teacher, Spring Lake

Cheri Millisor, 3rd grade teacher, Muskegon Public Schools and
Teacher Consultant with the National Writing Project

Development Sponsored by



Unit of Study: Informational Writing and Research for 3rd-5th Grades

Informational / Nonfiction Mentor Text Possibilities

Although the texts are separated by session, the use of each mentor text is not limited to that session. All of these texts are appropriate for sessions that are not specifically listed.

Title	Author	Writing Craft or Strategy Modeled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DK EYE Wonder: Mammals (any in the series)</u> • <u>Explore the Grasslands</u> • <u>Monarch Butterfly</u> • <u>Seashore Babies</u> 	Sarah Walker Kay Jackson Gail Gibbons (any title) Kathy Darling	Session 3: clearly presented sections of information with a heading describing each section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DK EYE Wonder: Mammals (any in the series)</u> • <u>Explore the Grasslands</u> • <u>Monarch Butterfly</u> • <u>Seashore Babies</u> 	Sarah Walker Kay Jackson Gail Gibbons (any title) Kathy Darling	Sessions 4 & 5: interesting and attractive nonfiction text page arrangements showing pictures with captions, diagrams with labels, vocabulary or fun fact boxes, ... and significant amounts of text in sections with headings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DK EYE Wonder: Mammals (any in the series)</u> • <u>Explore the Grasslands</u> • <u>Monarch Butterfly</u> • <u>Seashore Babies</u> 	Sarah Walker Kay Jackson Gail Gibbons (any title) Kathy Darling	Session 6: organizational writing patterns of problem/solution and compare/contrast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DK EYE Wonder: Mammals (any in the series)</u> • <u>Explore the Grasslands</u> • <u>Monarch Butterfly</u> • <u>Seashore Babies</u> 	Sarah Walker Kay Jackson Gail Gibbons (any title) Kathy Darling	Session 7: Teaching a reader using exact, true details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DK EYE Wonder: Mammals (any in the series)</u> • <u>Explore the Grasslands</u> • <u>Monarch Butterfly</u> • <u>Seashore Babies</u> 	Sarah Walker Kay Jackson Gail Gibbons (any title) Kathy Darling	Session 8: Revising to stay focused on the topic by turning headings into questions
		Session 9: Generating questions for research, using a T-Chart to organize known information and questions
		Session 10: Revising questions to make them specific and researchable
		Session 11: Organizing your notebook to begin research, how to record dash facts and source information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Salamander Rain-a Lake and Pond Journal</u> 	Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini	Session 12: Drafting research information; making decisions on format and layout
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Salamander Rain-a Lake and Pond Journal</u> 	Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini	Session 13: Drafting using specific details and examples

• <u>Salamander Rain-a Lake and Pond Journal</u>	Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini	Session 14: Revising using question and answer boxes
• <u>I Am the Mountain</u>	Diane Siebert	Session 15: Revising using our personal voice
• <u>Salamander Rain-a Lake and Pond Journal</u>	Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini	Session 16: Revising using content-specific vocabulary
• <u>Salamander Rain-a Lake and Pond Journal</u>	Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini	Session 17: Creating a bibliography
		Session 18: Publish our research
		Session 19: Publishing Celebration