



Launch an Intermediate Writing Workshop: Getting Started with Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5

By Lucy Calkins

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If the writing workshop is always changing, always haphazard, children remain pawns waiting for their teacher's agenda. For this reason and others, I think it is so important for each day's workshop to have a clear, simple structure. Children should know what to expect. This allows them to carry on; it frees the teacher from choreographing activities and allows time for listening. How we structure the workshop is less important than that we structure it.

Lucy Calkins

Learn how to teach narrative and expository writing with increasing power and intimacy and how Lucy Calkins and her colleagues launch a rigorous and responsive intermediate writing workshop. Through 2 foundational books *A Guide to the Writing Workshop* and *Launching the Writing Workshop* and eight online video clips, Lucy and her colleagues provide the strategies, lesson plans, and tools you'll need to lead strong, efficient writing workshops in upper-elementary classrooms.

A Guide to the Writing Workshop equips you to teach a productive, well-managed writing workshop, introduces you to the methods that underlie all writing instruction, and helps you plan a yearlong curriculum in the teaching of writing. After chronicling the guiding principles that shape a writing workshop, Lucy details the developmental stages of upper-elementary writers. Ensuing chapters describe the architecture of minilessons, conferences, and small-group strategy sessions and explain how the predictability of these frameworks fosters independence and self-direction. In addition to describing the management systems that make writing workshops possible, select chapters consider various ways to tailor instruction and address the demands of the contemporary classroom.

In *Launching the Writing Workshop* Lucy helps you launch both your writing workshop and your yearlong writing curriculum. While initiating students into the structures and rituals of the writing workshop, this unit also reviews and teaches the essentials of writing collecting, drafting, revising, editing, and

publishing. In addition to introducing practical strategies for finding topics and generating writing, children practice the strategy of making movies in their minds and writing so readers can picture exactly what is happening. Students also learn the value of focusing on small moments in such detail that readers feel they are experiencing the event.

Through the eight accompanying video clips Lucy and her colleagues open the doors of their classrooms and invite you to eavesdrop on their elementary writing workshops. These live-from-the-classroom video clips are supported and enhanced by an optional voice-over coaching commentary from Lucy that explains the teaching moves and strategies.

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