

Grade 4 Unit Overviews

UNIT 1: INTRODUCING NARRATIVE WRITING

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces narrative writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of narrative text and identify its common features. Students study an exemplar text, see a teacher model how to write a narrative, and write collaboratively and independently. The unit culminates in a writing activity in which students draw on Core Unit 2, *Empires in the Middle Ages*, to compose narratives about someone watching a jousting match.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 1	Unit 2, <i>Empires in the Middle Ages</i> , Part 1
Lesson 1	Lesson 7
Lesson 2	Lesson 8
Lesson 3	Lesson 9
Lesson 4	Lesson 10
Lesson 5	Lesson 11
Lesson 6	Lesson 12
Lesson 7	Lesson 13
Lesson 8	Lesson 14

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces informative writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of informational text and identify its common features. Students study an exemplar text, see a teacher model how to write an informative piece, and write collaboratively and independently. The unit concludes with an extended writing activity in which students draw on primary instruction Unit 3, *Poetry*, to write an informative text describing the elements of a poem.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 2	Unit 3, <i>Poetry</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 7
Lesson 2	Lesson 8
Lesson 3	Lesson 9
Lesson 4	Lesson 10
Lesson 5	Lesson 11
Lesson 6	Lesson 12
Lesson 7	Lesson 13
Lesson 8	Lesson 14

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit introduces opinion writing, using a variety of approaches to help students learn the purpose of opinion text and to identify its common features. Students study an exemplar text, see a teacher model how to write an opinion piece, and write several different opinion pieces, culminating in an activity in which they draw on Unit 4, *Eureka! Student Inventor* to compose an essay identifying the most important invention.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 3	Unit 4, <i>Eureka! Student Inventor</i>
Lesson 1	Episode 3
Lesson 2	Episode 4
Lesson 3	Episode 5
Lesson 4	Episode 6
Lesson 5	Episode 7
Lesson 6	Episode 8
Lesson 7	Episode 9
Lesson 8	Episode 10

Why This Unit Is Important

This unit builds on students' knowledge of narrative writing, asking students to apply that knowledge in crafting more nuanced and diverse types of narratives. Students consider the myths they study in Unit 5, *Geology*, then synthesize their knowledge of myths and their purpose with their understanding of the natural world. The unit concludes with a writing activity in which students draw on primary instruction Unit 5, *Geology*, to create myths that a population without much knowledge on geology might use to explain the existence of ancient ocean fossils on Mount Everest. Then they revise these narratives into a final product.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 4	Unit 5, <i>Geology</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 7
Lesson 2	Lesson 8
Lesson 3	Lesson 9
Lesson 4	Lesson 10
Lesson 5	Lesson 11
Lesson 6	Lesson 12
Lesson 7	Lesson 13
Lesson 8	Lesson 14

Why This Unit Is Important

In the final unit expressly devoted to informative writing, students continue to develop their understanding of and ability to craft informative texts. Using extensive scaffolding, this unit guides students through a review of domain knowledge, then draws on the work they have already done in Core Unit 6, *Contemporary Fiction*. Students use their understanding of this domain to craft informative texts that summarize one of the vignettes they have read from *The House on Mango Street*.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 5	Unit 6, <i>Contemporary Fiction</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 5
Lesson 2	Lesson 6
Lesson 3	Lesson 7
Lesson 4	Lesson 8
Lesson 5	Lesson 9
Lesson 6	Lesson 10
Lesson 7	Lesson 11
Lesson 8	Lesson 12

Why This Unit Is Important

In the final unit expressly devoted to opinion writing, students continue to develop their understanding of and ability to craft persuasive texts. Using extensive scaffolding, this unit guides students through a review of content knowledge, then draws on the work they have already done in Unit 7, *American Revolution*. Students use their understanding of the revolution to compose opinion pieces explaining how they would have reacted to the events of 1776.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 6	Unit 7, <i>American Revolution</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 6
Lesson 2	Lesson 7
Lesson 3	Lesson 8
Lesson 4	Lesson 9
Lesson 5	Lesson 10
Lesson 6	Lesson 11
Lesson 7	Lesson 12
Lesson 8	Lesson 13

Why This Unit Is Important

Grade 4 Writing Studio culminates in a unit that presents students with an authentic writing opportunity. Students draw on their knowledge of Core Unit 8, *Treasure Island*, to imagine they are part of the company that sells *Treasure Island*, and they have been asked to write something that will make new audiences interested in reading the book. Students select one of the three previously studied text types to compose their final piece of writing, which they will share with each other in a finished, publishable form.

Pacing Guide

Writing Studio Unit 7	Unit 8, <i>Treasure Island</i>
Lesson 1	Lesson 8
Lesson 2	Lesson 9
Lesson 3	Lesson 10
Lesson 4	Lesson 11
Lesson 5	Lesson 12
Lesson 6	Lesson 13
Lesson 7	Lesson 14
Lesson 8	Lesson 15