

UNITS *of* STUDY
READING



PRODUCT OVERVIEW GRADES K–5

Units of Study in Reading

The Workshop Model

Where Explicit Teaching Meets Authentic Reading

The *Units of Study* are built on the workshop model, a research-informed and student-centered instructional framework that gives students dedicated time and support to engage in authentic reading and writing every day. Rooted in decades of research and classroom practice, the workshop model emphasizes daily practice, responsive feedback, and student agency within intentionally designed instruction across grade levels and subject areas.

The workshop model provides a structure where explicit instruction, authentic reading experiences, and responsive support work together. Within this flexible structure, students read, write, talk, and think daily, developing skills and strategies through meaningful, scaffolded practice that connects instruction to authentic reading.

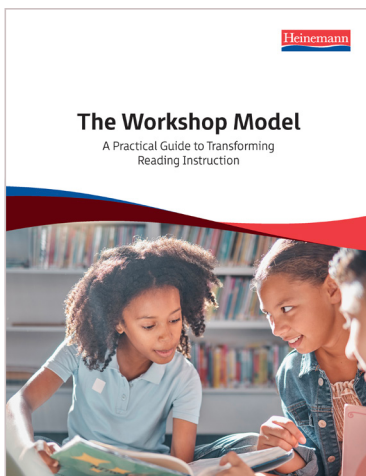
The reading workshop creates a classroom environment where reading is purposeful, meaningful, and deeply engaging.

Teachers:

- model high-leverage strategies
- coach students through application
- use ongoing feedback to guide next steps and ensure instruction is targeted and meaningful

Students:

- receive systematic, explicit instruction in foundational skills and reading strategies
- practice and apply those skills in authentic, connected texts
- receive feedback and differentiated support based on ongoing assessment and student data



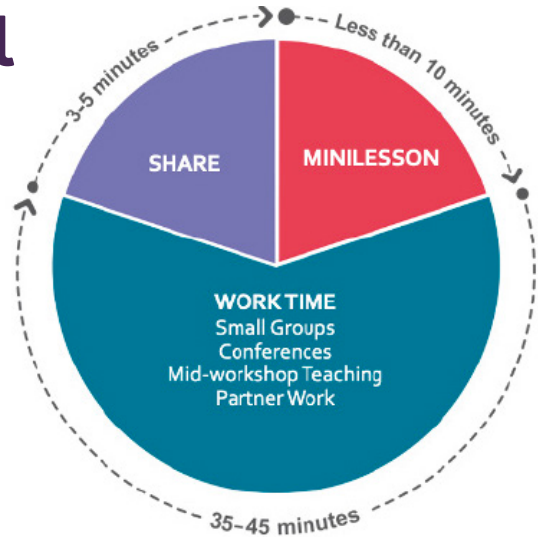
Download our free eBook and see how the workshop model can help build strong, successful readers:

learning.heinemann.com/the-reading-workshop-practical-guide

The Workshop Model

The Structure of a Reading Workshop

A typical reading workshop includes three key components: minilesson, work time, and share time. This predictable structure connects explicit instruction with authentic reading and can be flexibly adjusted to fit the time available.



Minilesson: Focused, Explicit Instruction

Each workshop begins with a short, focused minilesson in which the teacher explicitly teaches and models a high-leverage reading skill or strategy. Teachers coach students as they apply the skill and provide immediate feedback. Instruction is clear and targeted, helping students understand what to do as readers, why it matters, and how to apply the learning in their own reading.

Work Time: Practice, Application, and Differentiation

Students spend sustained time reading and applying what they have learned in authentic texts. While students read independently, teachers provide differentiated support through small groups and individual conferences as needed. This structure allows students to practice reading in meaningful contexts while receiving responsive instruction.

Share Time: Reflection and Community

The workshop concludes with a brief share in which students reflect on their learning, discuss their thinking, and consolidate new understandings. This time helps strengthen comprehension, build language, and support students in transferring skills to future reading.

The Research Behind the Units of Study in Reading

The *Units of Study in Reading*, Grades K–5 have been completely revised and updated to reflect current research in literacy instruction. Aligned with Science of Reading principles and the Reading Rope framework, these units are designed to support the integration of word recognition and language comprehension, while reinforcing the development of foundational skills—including phonological awareness, phonics, and decoding—in the early grades and continued work with fluency, vocabulary, knowledge building, and comprehension across Grades 3–5.

The Science of Reading is about more than phonics. Effective literacy instruction includes a structured approach that supports students in developing vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension alongside foundational skills, while providing sustained time for students to read, think, and discuss whole texts.



These new editions reflect a clear commitment to research-aligned practice. **There is no instruction anchored in three-cueing, nor do the new editions encourage kids to guess at words in lieu of decoding.** Instead, students are taught to attend to print and read with increasing independence and understanding.

To ensure students receive the full range of skills required for early literacy success, the *Units of Study in Reading* need to be paired with a foundational skills program that offers structured, sequential lessons in phonics and word recognition. Together, these programs work in harmony to build both the code and the meaning of language.

Putting Research Into Practice Across K–5

The *Units of Study in Reading* are designed to translate research into daily instruction—ensuring that the key principles of how children learn to read are reflected in what teachers teach and what students do each day.

Building Word Recognition (K–3)

Instruction supports the development of foundational skills in phonological awareness, phonics, and decoding, with opportunities to apply this learning in both isolated practice and connected text. Students build accuracy and automaticity as they read, while also developing fluency and oral language through meaningful reading and discussion.

Developing Language Comprehension and Knowledge (K–5)

Across K–5, instruction supports the development of language comprehension through vocabulary, oral language, and knowledge building. Through read-aloud, discussion, and engagement with meaningful texts, students build the background knowledge and language proficiency that are essential for understanding increasingly complex texts.

Strengthening Fluency as a Bridge to Comprehension (K–5)

Students develop fluency through regular opportunities for supported and repeated reading. As accuracy and automaticity increase, students read with greater rate, expression, and phrasing, allowing them to focus more fully on comprehension and meaning making.

Engaging in Sustained Reading of Whole Texts (K–5)

Research emphasizes the importance of reading volume and engagement in building vocabulary, knowledge, and comprehension. Reading whole books gives students access to extended, connected texts, providing the range of experiences they need to grow as independent readers.

Using Assessment to Provide Responsive Instruction (K–5)

Teachers provide purposeful, targeted support through ongoing assessment, small groups, and individual conferences, ensuring instruction is responsive to students' needs and supports continued growth.

What's New Across Grades K–5

The *Units of Study in Reading* have been completely revised and updated for Grades K–5 to reflect current research in literacy instruction.

Streamlined Minilessons

Each day's minilesson is presented as a clean, two-page spread with everything a teacher needs at a glance: teaching point, materials, vocabulary, and more.

Standards-Alignment

A coherent, research-based, standards-aligned curriculum encompassing daily vocabulary (Grades 3–5), read-aloud, and reading workshop instruction.

Daily Vocabulary Instruction

Vocabulary lessons tied to unit topics to support students' word knowledge and build morphological awareness, using quick research-based routines.

Daily Read-Aloud Plans

Fully-planned read-alouds that are perfectly aligned to unit goals—rich with discussion and close reading.





Science and NGSS-aligned

Nonfiction topics like insects, oceans, plant adaptations, Earth processes, and space spark curiosity and support Next Generation Science Standards.

Formative and Summative Assessments

Integrated unit assessments with rubrics and progressions for data-driven instruction. Each unit highlights optional opportunities for formative assessment. These checkpoints help you monitor students' progress and include suggested next steps to guide and strengthen future instruction.

Supporting All Readers

A companion book that includes more than 150 ready-to-teach small groups, allowing you to pinpoint next steps for students and teach responsively.

Supports for Multilingual Learners

Every unit contains built-in scaffolds, predictable workshop structures, clear guidance, and sentence frames. Spanish translations of key resources are also included.

Ensuring Access

Each session includes practical strategies for adapting instruction and expectations so all students can engage with essential content.

Alignment with Writing Workshop

This series is designed to work seamlessly with the new *Units of Study in Writing*, and many units incorporate mentor texts and key teaching points from writing.



Instruction Centered on Authentic Texts and Whole Books

A hallmark of the *Units of Study in Reading* has always been a commitment to kids reading authentic texts and whole books. These new editions build on that foundation, ensuring students engage with high-quality books as they develop skills and grow as readers.

The *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–5* deliver structured, scaffolded instruction anchored in students reading and discussing authentic, whole books, not just excerpts or short passages. Lessons are built around complete, high-quality trade books and mentor texts, giving students meaningful opportunities to build stamina, deepen comprehension, and develop a strong reading identity.

Research underscores the importance of reading volume, knowledge building, and engagement in developing skilled readers. When students read extended texts, they:



build stamina and fluency through sustained reading



develop comprehension across texts, not just isolated passages



grow vocabulary and background knowledge in meaningful context



engage deeply as readers, strengthening motivation and identity

By giving students time to read whole books alongside targeted instruction, the *Units of Study* create the conditions for students to build knowledge, develop understanding across texts, and grow as independent readers over time.

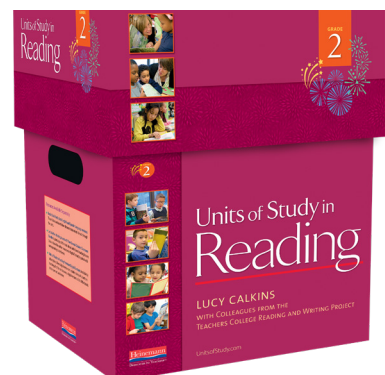
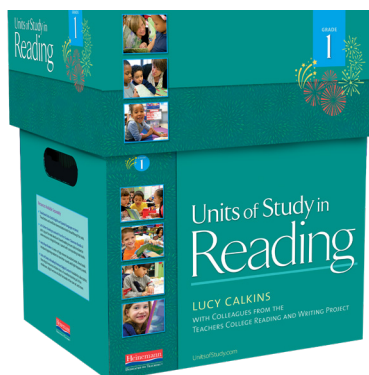
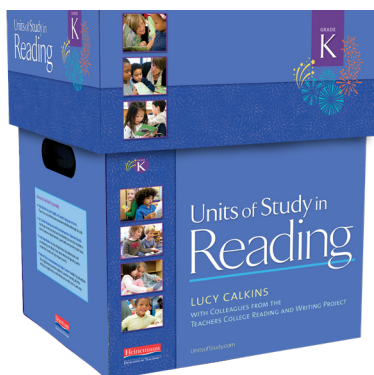
Building Strong Readers From the Start

The *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–2* have been thoroughly updated to reflect current research on how children learn to read. They combine research-informed instruction with the proven benefits of a workshop model that prioritizes time to read, authentic texts, and responsive teaching. Aligned to Science of Reading principles, the Units integrate foundational skills, language comprehension, and knowledge building to ensure students build both the ability to read and the capacity to understand what they read.

Students develop foundational skills alongside daily opportunities to apply those skills in connected reading and writing experiences. Instruction is cumulative and coherent across units and grade levels.

Students spend sustained time reading whole books and engaging with meaningful texts. Through read-alouds, shared reading, independent reading, and structured talk, they build vocabulary, oral language, and background knowledge—critical drivers of comprehension. Lessons are intentionally designed to develop all strands of skilled reading, ensuring word recognition and language comprehension grow in tandem.

These new editions reflect a clear commitment to research-aligned practice. **There is no instruction anchored in three-cueing nor do the new editions encourage kids to guess at words in lieu of decoding.** Instead, students are taught to attend to print and read with increasing independence and understanding.

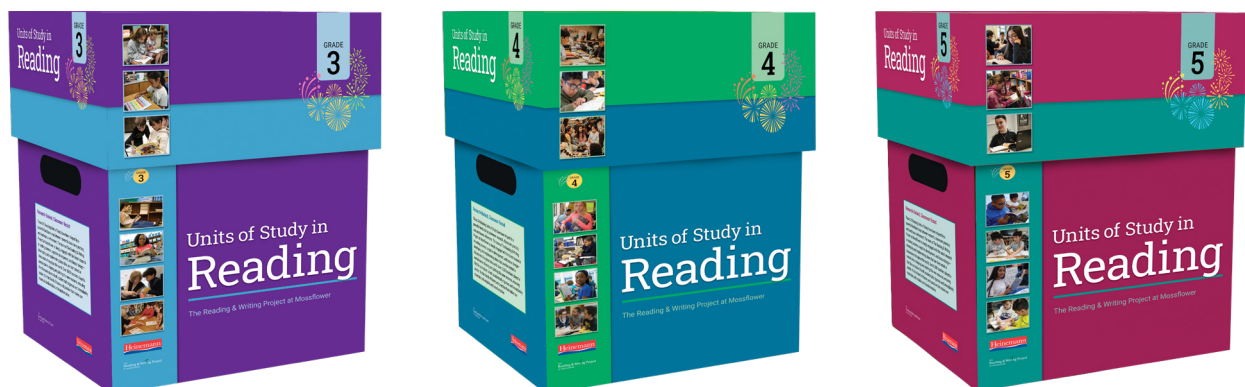


Expanding Skills and Deepening Thinking

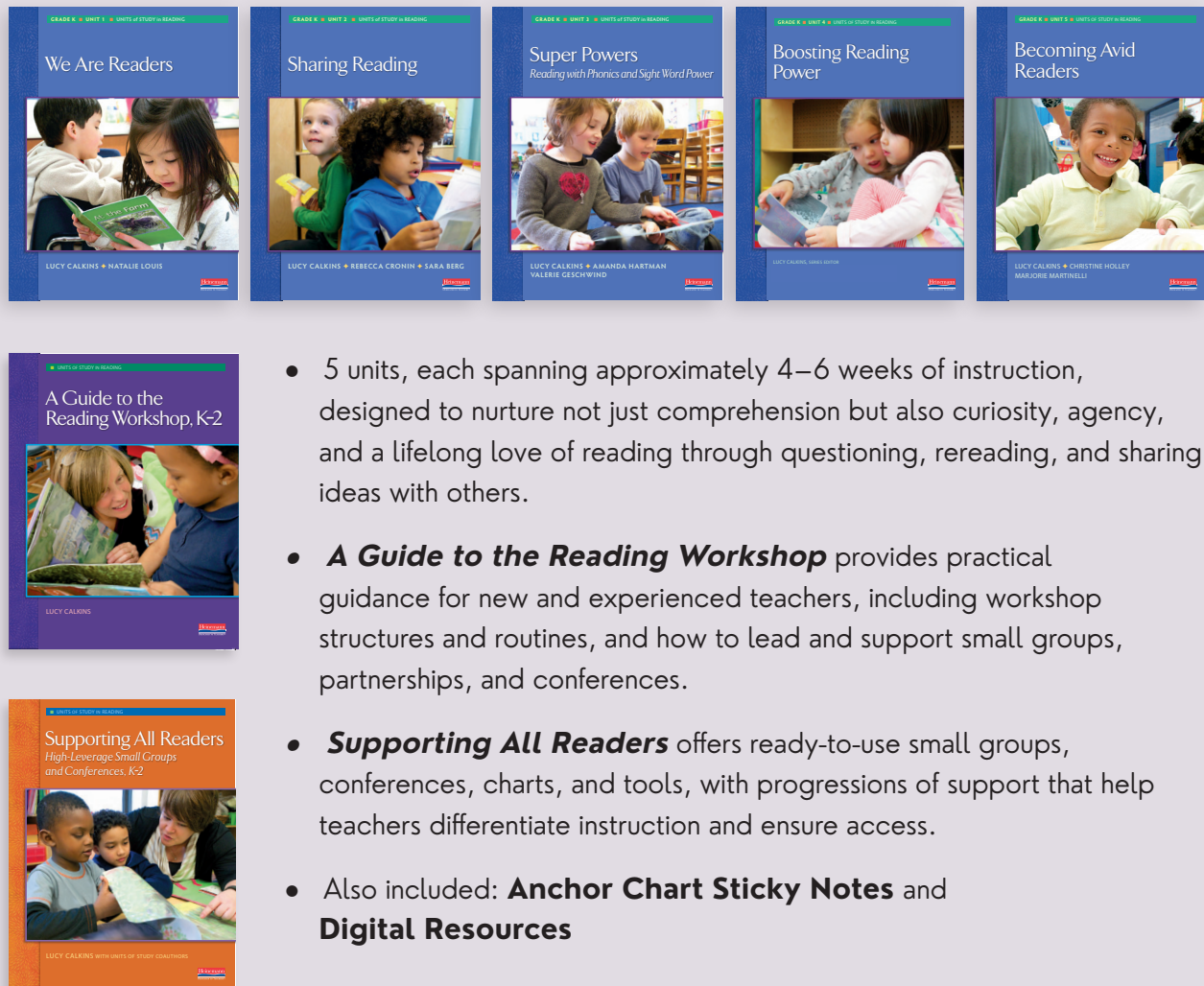
The *Units of Study in Reading, Grades 3–5* provide a fully integrated approach to comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and knowledge building, grounded in the Science of Reading.

Grades 3–5 build on K–2 foundations to help students become skilled, thoughtful, and independent readers of complex texts. Students engage in close reading of fiction and nonfiction, text-based discussion, and writing about reading, developing the ability to think critically, synthesize ideas, and support their thinking with evidence. They also build knowledge across content areas through research and topic-based units, including NGSS-aligned studies that deepen understanding and extend learning beyond the literacy block.

Across the grades, instruction combines explicit teaching with sustained time to read whole books within a workshop framework. Students read widely from authentic texts, exercise choice, and engage in meaningful reading experiences, while teachers provide targeted support through small groups and purposeful conferences. Collaborative structures such as partnerships and book clubs foster discussion, perspective taking, and strong classroom communities, supporting both academic growth and social development.



Grade K Core Print Set Includes:

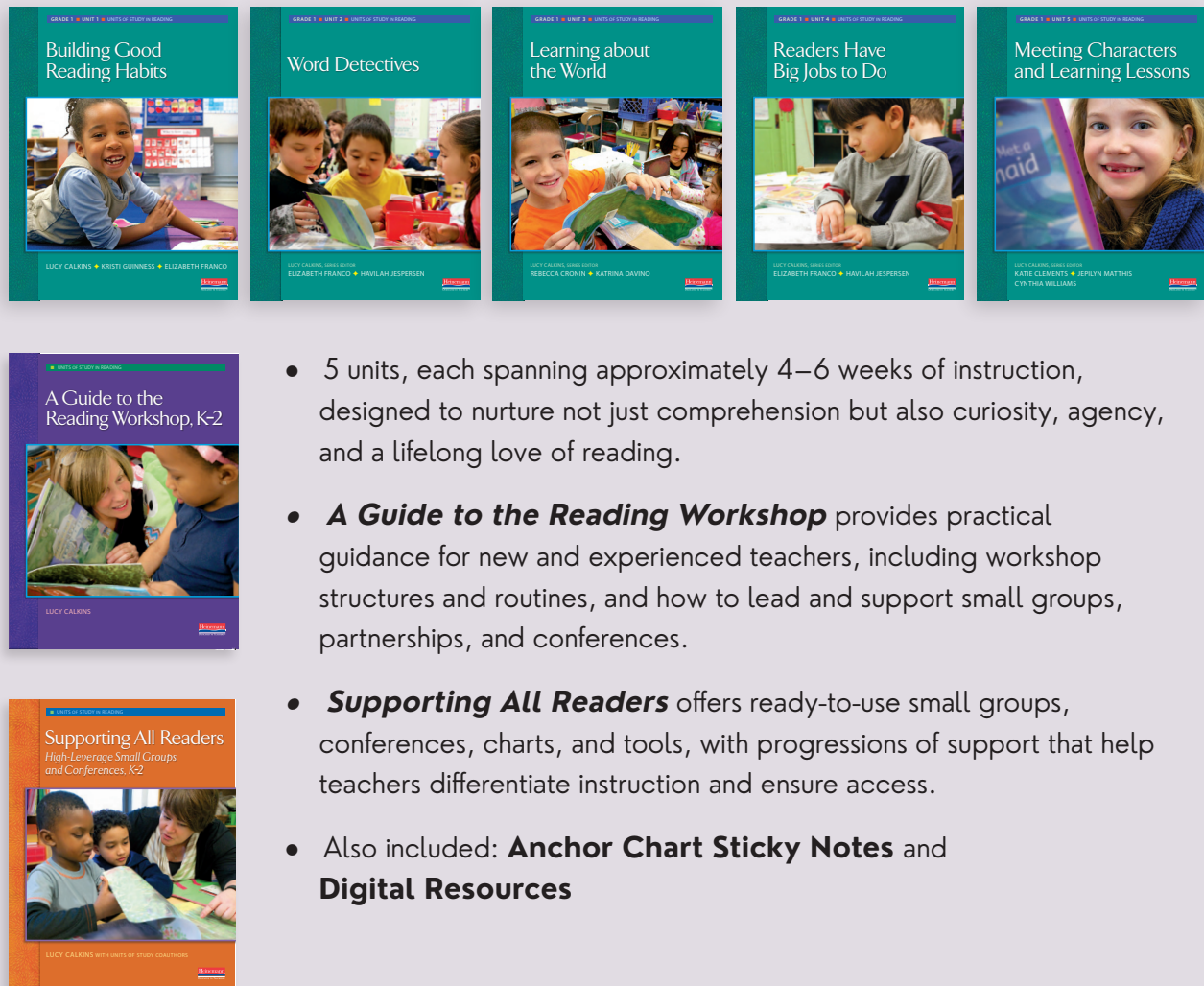


- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, and a lifelong love of reading through questioning, rereading, and sharing ideas with others.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
- ***Supporting All Readers*** offers ready-to-use small groups, conferences, charts, and tools, with progressions of support that help teachers differentiate instruction and ensure access.
- Also included: **Anchor Chart Sticky Notes** and **Digital Resources**

Trade Book Packs include grade-level-appropriate books that teachers use as demonstration texts to model key skills and strategies in authentic, engaging reading experiences.

The Core Print Set is available with or without a Trade Book Pack.

Grade 1 Core Print Set Includes:

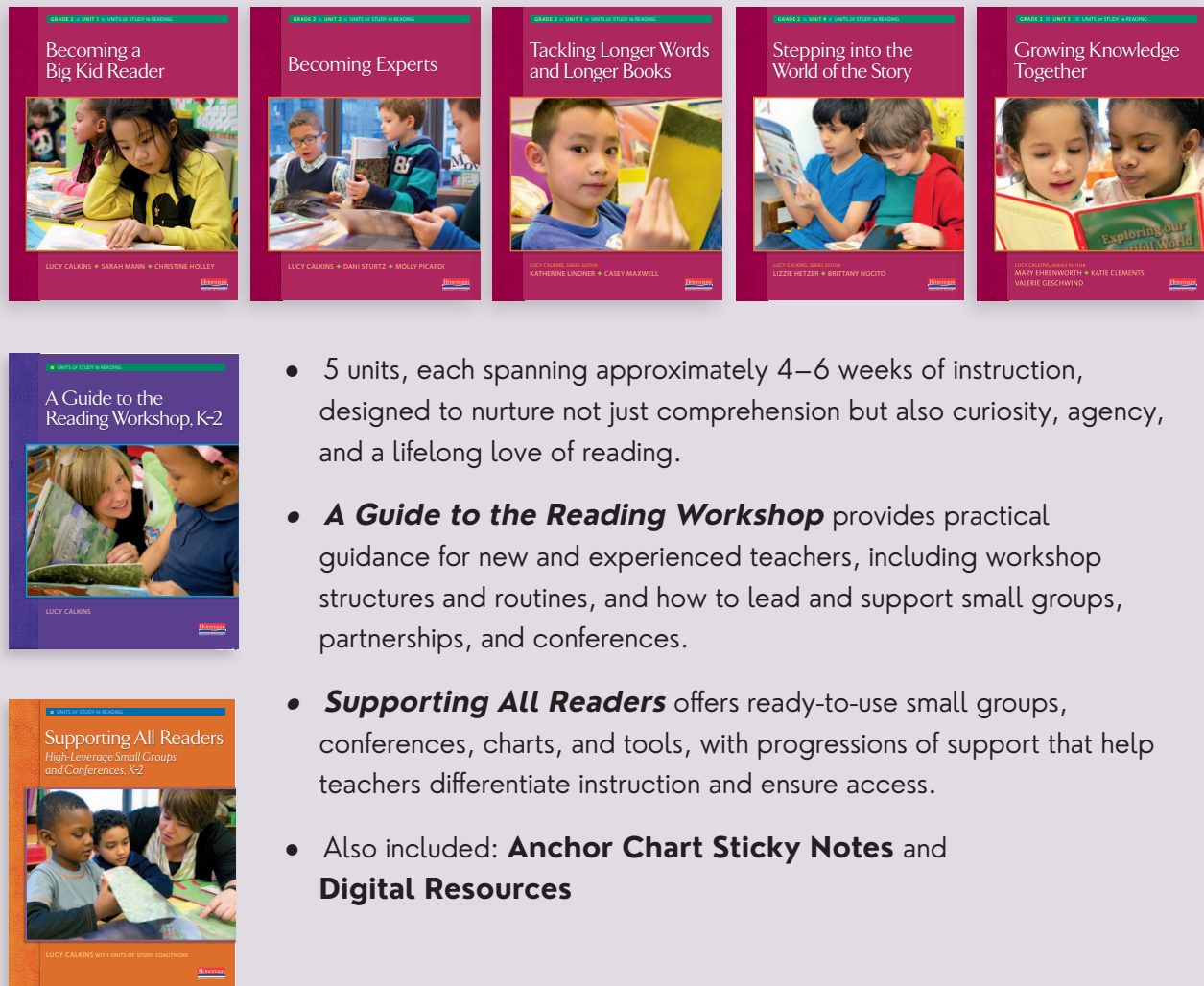


- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, and a lifelong love of reading.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
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Grade 2 Core Print Set Includes:

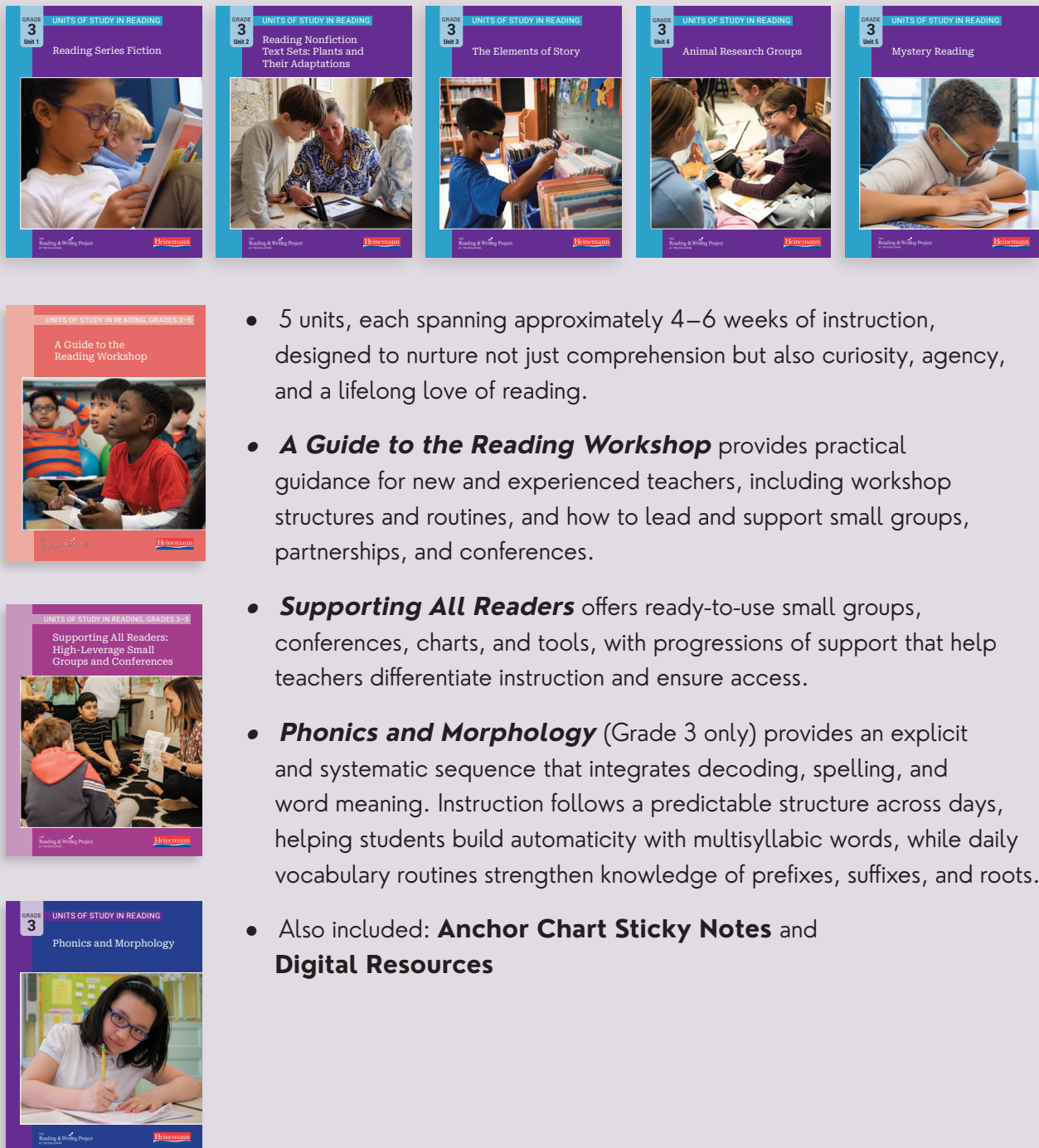


- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, and a lifelong love of reading.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
- ***Supporting All Readers*** offers ready-to-use small groups, conferences, charts, and tools, with progressions of support that help teachers differentiate instruction and ensure access.
- Also included: **Anchor Chart Sticky Notes** and **Digital Resources**

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Grade 3 Core Print Set Includes:

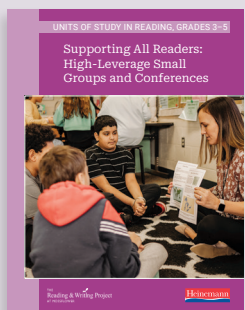
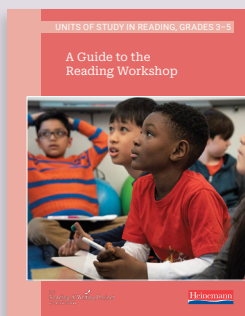
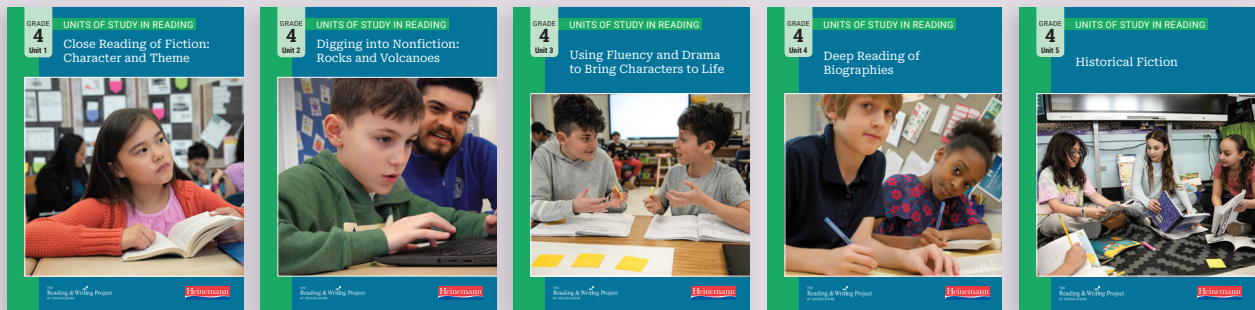


- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, and a lifelong love of reading.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
- ***Supporting All Readers*** offers ready-to-use small groups, conferences, charts, and tools, with progressions of support that help teachers differentiate instruction and ensure access.
- ***Phonics and Morphology*** (Grade 3 only) provides an explicit and systematic sequence that integrates decoding, spelling, and word meaning. Instruction follows a predictable structure across days, helping students build automaticity with multisyllabic words, while daily vocabulary routines strengthen knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and roots.
- Also included: **Anchor Chart Sticky Notes** and **Digital Resources**

Trade Book Packs include grade-level-appropriate books that teachers use as demonstration texts to model key skills and strategies in authentic, engaging reading experiences.

The Core Print Set is available with or without a Trade Book Pack.

Grade 4 Core Print Set Includes:

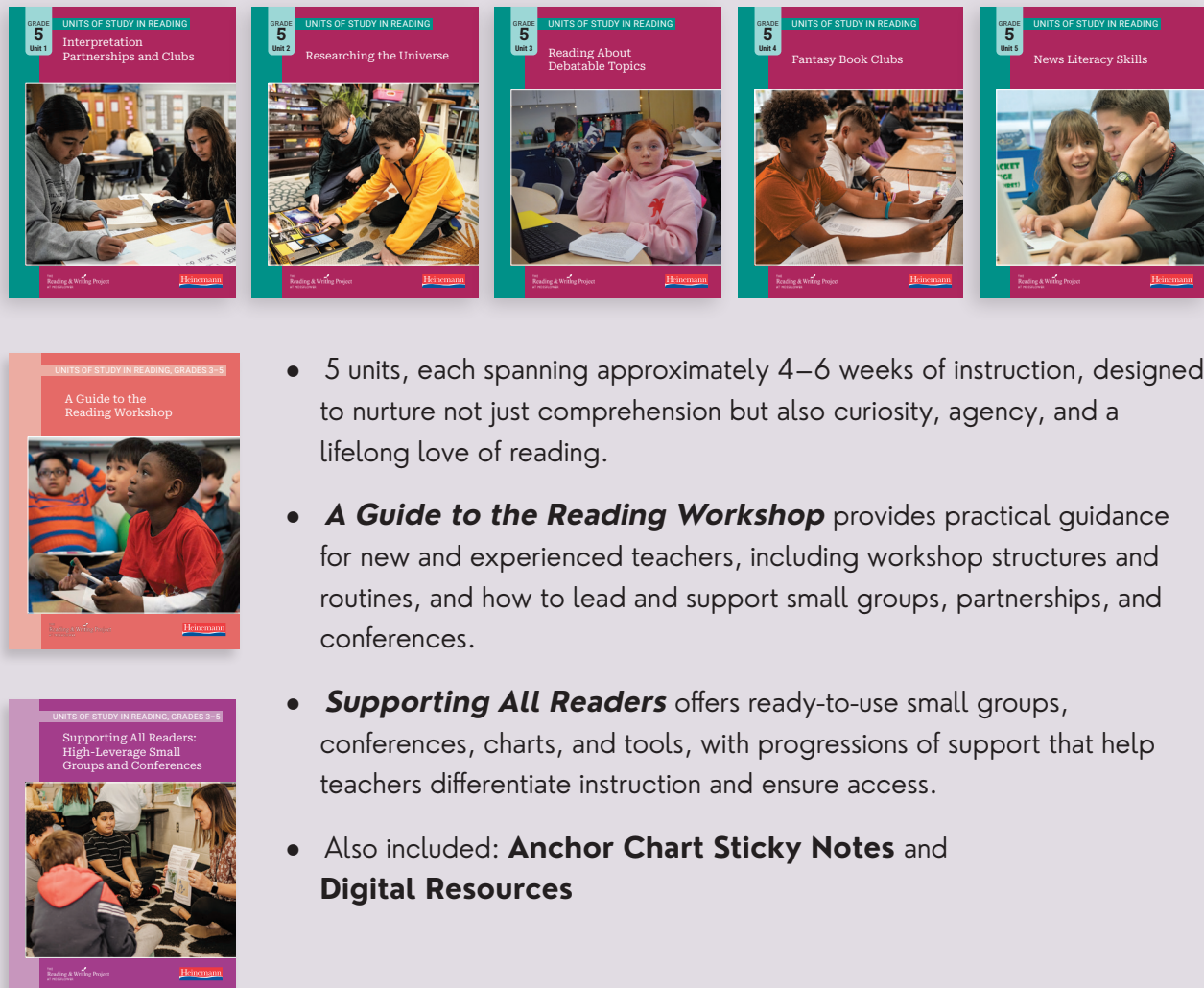


- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, a lifelong love of reading.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
- ***Supporting All Readers*** offers ready-to-use small groups, conferences, charts, and tools, with progressions of support that help teachers differentiate instruction and ensure access.
- Also included: **Anchor Chart Sticky Notes** and **Digital Resources**

Trade Book Packs include grade-level-appropriate books that teachers use as demonstration texts to model key skills and strategies in authentic, engaging reading experiences.

The Core Print Set is available with or without a Trade Book Pack.

Grade 5 Core Print Set Includes:



- 5 units, each spanning approximately 4–6 weeks of instruction, designed to nurture not just comprehension but also curiosity, agency, and a lifelong love of reading.
- ***A Guide to the Reading Workshop*** provides practical guidance for new and experienced teachers, including workshop structures and routines, and how to lead and support small groups, partnerships, and conferences.
- ***Supporting All Readers*** offers ready-to-use small groups, conferences, charts, and tools, with progressions of support that help teachers differentiate instruction and ensure access.
- Also included: **Anchor Chart Sticky Notes** and **Digital Resources**

Trade Book Packs include grade-level-appropriate books that teachers use as demonstration texts to model key skills and strategies in authentic, engaging reading experiences.

The Core Print Set is available with or without a Trade Book Pack.

The Role of Read-Aloud in the Units of Study in Reading

Interactive read-alouds are a cornerstone of effective literacy instruction, allowing teachers to model reading skills and strategies through fluent, expressive reading while making comprehension visible. Through read-aloud, students engage with complex texts beyond their independent reading level, building vocabulary, background knowledge, and critical thinking skills.

Read-aloud is intentionally embedded throughout the *Units of Study in Reading*:

- **In Grades K–2**, read-aloud plans are aligned to the minilessons and support the development of high-level comprehension skills. Plans highlight essential vocabulary and include structured opportunities for partner talk and whole-class discussion, fostering collaborative, text-based thinking. Close reading is supported through text-dependent questions, along with knowledge-building activities and culminating tasks to extend learning.
- **Let’s Gather, K–2 (available for additional purchase)** provides teachers with complete interactive read-aloud and shared reading plans to use alongside the *Units of Study in Reading* for Grades K–2. Featuring high-quality fiction and nonfiction texts, it supports a progression of comprehension skills across the school year. (Grade-level Classroom Bundles include the Guide, 17–20 trade books, and Anchor Chart Sticky Notes.)
- **In Grades 3–5**, read-aloud is embedded within each unit as a central instructional tool. Teachers model increasingly sophisticated comprehension work—such as analyzing characters, building knowledge across texts, and interpreting ideas—before students apply these strategies in their own reading. These texts are connected to unit goals, supporting vocabulary, knowledge building, and discussion, while helping students transfer new learning to independent reading.

“The read-aloud plans for each unit make it easy for teachers to weave high-level comprehension into daily lessons while keeping students engaged with rich, purposeful conversations. The careful alignment between the minilessons and the read-alouds allows teachers to focus less time on planning from scratch and more on the joy of reading and discussing great books!”

PK–5 Instructional Coach

Classroom Libraries That Support Instructional Goals and Reading Growth

Classroom libraries play a critical role in supporting students' growth as readers. Research consistently shows that access to a wide range of engaging books and opportunities to choose what to read are key drivers of reading motivation and overall achievement.

When students have access to high-quality texts and the freedom to select books that interest them, they read more. As reading volume increases, students build background knowledge, vocabulary, and understanding across texts, strengthening both word recognition and comprehension over time.

The *Units of Study* offer curated classroom libraries and shelves organized by genre and topic to support students' reading development and align with instruction across the *Units of Study*.

Classroom Libraries (available for additional purchase)

- The *Units of Study* classroom libraries and shelves include high-interest fiction and nonfiction texts to encourage sustained reading and student choice. Grade-level collections bring together texts across genres and topics, along with additional library shelves aligned to specific *Units of Study*.
- In Grades K–2, decodable book collections including ***Jump Rope Readers*** (fiction and nonfiction) and ***Moonlit Mountain Readers*** are a key component of classroom libraries, providing opportunities for students to apply and practice the phonics and word recognition skills they are learning in connected text.

The *Units of Study* classroom libraries and shelves help ensure that every student has access to engaging, appropriately challenging texts that reflect a range of experiences and perspectives—creating the conditions for meaningful choice, reading engagement, and academic success.

Digital Resources

The *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–5* include access to digital resources to support instruction.

Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–2

Digital resources for the new editions of *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–2* are delivered via *Heinemann Flight™*.

What's Included:

- **General Grade Resources:** Scope & Sequence, Standard Alignment Charts, Curriculum Maps, Bibliography, Trade Book Lists, and Multilingual Learner (MLL) Support
- **Unit Resources:** Digital Access to Print Materials, Anchor Charts, Unit Readers, Assessment Tools, Coaching Guides, Spanish Translation of Select Resources (Teaching Points and Anchor Charts)
- Access to ongoing digital improvements and updated features

Units of Study in Reading, Grades 3–5

The digital resources for the new editions of *Units of Study in Reading, Grades 3–5* are delivered via Heinemann.com Online Resources.

What's Included:

- **General Grade Resources:** Scope & Sequence, Standard Alignment Charts, Curriculum Maps, Paper Types, Bibliography, Trade Book Lists, and Multilingual Learner (MLL) Support
- **Unit Resources:** Digital Access to Print Materials, Anchor Charts, Vocabulary Cards and Lists, Teeny-Tiny Texts, Assessment Tools, Coaching Guides, Classroom Teaching Slides (to be added on a rolling basis), Spanish Translation of Select Resources (Teaching Points and Anchor Charts)
- Additional resources may be added, so check back regularly for updates.

Professional Learning to Support Implementation and Instruction

The Reading & Writing Project at Mossflower is the creator of the *Units of Study in Reading and Writing* and a leading professional learning organization dedicated to strengthening literacy instruction and supporting how students learn to read, write, and think.

Through ongoing work with schools and districts around the world, Mossflower combines deep instructional expertise with continuous engagement in current literacy research. Grounded in classroom-based work and shaped by the evolving needs of students and educators, they ensure that their approach to literacy instruction remains responsive, relevant, and research-informed.

The Reading & Writing Project at Mossflower provides professional learning through a range of formats, including on-site and online services, workshops, events, institutes, study groups, and on-demand resources. Some of these offerings support the Units of Study, while others address timely, research-based topics to strengthen literacy instruction schoolwide.

Whether just getting started with *Units of Study* or deepening existing work, Mossflower partners with schools and districts to support instructional goals and ensure effective implementation of the curriculum.

Learn more and get started at [Mossflower.com](https://mossflower.com).



THE
Reading & Writing Project
AT MOSSFLOWER



The *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–5* have been completely revised and updated to reflect current research in literacy instruction. Aligned with Science of Reading principles and the Reading Rope framework, instruction combines explicit teaching with sustained time to read whole books within a workshop framework.

Start here to review full-length digital samples of the
NEW *Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–5*.



Units of Study in Reading, Grades K–2:
Visit learning.heinemann.com/uosreading-k2-dse
to get started.



Units of Study in Reading, Grades 3–5:
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