

# Writing Workshop

# Grade 4 Realistic Fiction

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Board of Education approval: September 2013

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**Overview of Unit 2: Realistic Fiction**

This unit is based on the first book The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction (Calkins and Cruz, 2013). The first bend of the book invites children to “live like writers” (p. vii) and collect many small moment stories and ideas in their writer’s notebook. Students should use story mountains to plan out ideas and then the rehearsal of ideas through oral storytelling with partners to help see where the story is going to go before sitting down to write it. Then, students will focus on developing the characters in the story, including his/her motivations, struggles, and so on. In the second bend, students focus on the story arc to get to the heart of the story. Fiction stories create scenes rather than summarize, so students are encouraged to ‘show don’t tell’. The third bend is focused on revision, and the final bend invites students to plan their own independent fiction piece. This document contains links to any supplementary texts, songs, and videos that are mentioned but not provided by the book. Teachers are encouraged to write fiction alongside students to enhance mini-lessons and conferring.

Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
<p>Realistic fiction is based on the struggles, motivations, and resolutions faced by characters in a believable setting. Teachers can instruct students with direct lessons that help students make effective decisions about their stories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do writers get ideas?</li> <li>• How do writers control their writing to communicate an intended message?</li> <li>• How do we bridge personal narratives and fictional writing?</li> <li>• How can we raise the quality of our fictional writing?</li> </ul>

Unit Content (What the student will learn.)	Unit Skills (What the student will be able to do.)
<p>Students will learn...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies to structure personal narratives with leads, transitions, endings, and organization</li> <li>• Strategies to elaborate and craft ideas in personal narratives</li> <li>• Strategies to monitor pieces for correct spelling and punctuation</li> <li>• Strategies to develop personal narratives through characters’ motivations and struggles, control time, use precise language, and set a tone to their stories.</li> </ul>	<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write an important part of an event bit by bit and take out unimportant parts.</li> <li>• Write a lead/beginning that shows what is happening and where.</li> <li>• Use transitions words such as “just then”, “suddenly” “after a while” and “a little later” to show how much time has gone by.</li> <li>• Write an ending with action, dialogue, or feeling that connects to the beginning or middle of the story.</li> <li>• Use paragraphs to separate different parts of the story or show a new person is speaking.</li> <li>• Elaborate with thoughts and feelings, focusing on the heart of the story.</li> <li>• Show characters’ motivation by including their thinking.</li> <li>• Slow down time at important parts of the story and speed up unimportant parts.</li> <li>• Use precise language, such as figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification) to craft writing.</li> <li>• Use a storytelling voice and convey emotion/tone of the story through description,</li> </ul>

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	<p>phrases, dialogue, and thoughts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use spelling rules, dictionaries, and word walls to help spell and edit.</li> <li>• Use commas to set off introductory parts of sentences (“One day at the park,...”) and to show someone directly talking to another person (“Are you mad, Mom?”).</li> </ul>
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Unit Standards	Core Vocabulary	Links to Technology	Resources
<p><b>Writing</b>  <a href="http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/4">http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/W/4</a>                      W.4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 4.10</p> <p><b>Reading: Literature</b>  <a href="http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/4">http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/4</a>                      RL4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.10, 5.5</p> <p><b>Speaking and Listening</b>  <a href="http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/4">http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/4</a>                      SL4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5</p> <p><b>Language</b>  <a href="http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4">http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/4</a>                      L4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5</p> <p>*See back cover of <u>The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction</u> for a breakdown of CCS by session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytelling</li> <li>• Characters</li> <li>• Motivation</li> <li>• Struggle</li> <li>• Scenes</li> <li>• Story arc</li> <li>• “Show don’t tell”</li> <li>• Leads</li> <li>• Endings</li> <li>• Dialogue</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Perspective</li> <li>• Transition phrases</li> <li>• Commas</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Bend 1</u></b>                      Olympic Fanfare and Theme (load ahead of time to avoid commercial) -  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbHw8DBCXQ8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbHw8DBCXQ8</a>                      Three Billy Goats Gruff (also from CD-ROM)  <a href="http://www.storynory.com/2007/04/22/the-billy-goats-gruff/">http://www.storynory.com/2007/04/22/the-billy-goats-gruff/</a></p> <p><b><u>Bend 2</u></b>                      Three Billy Goats Gruff (also from CD-ROM)  <a href="http://www.storynory.com/2007/04/22/the-billy-goats-gruff/">http://www.storynory.com/2007/04/22/the-billy-goats-gruff/</a></p> <p><b><u>Bend 4</u></b>                      Session 19 – video illustrating camera angles                      Despicable Me Trailer 2013 (load ahead of time to avoid commercial)  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS2OGOn0aqs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TS2OGOn0aqs</a></p>	<p><b><u>Mentor Texts:</u></b></p> <p><u>Fireflies</u> by Julie Brinckloe (session 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 18)</p> <p><u>Pecan Pie Baby</u> by Jacqueline Woodson (session 8)</p> <p><b><u>Teacher Resources:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book One in <u>Units of Study</u> kit: <u>The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction</u> (Calkins and Cruz, 2013)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Common Core Standards</a></li> </ul>