**Grade 4**

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|  | **Reading Workshop** |  | **Writing Workshop** |
| September | *Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story (1)\**    *RL* | September | *Raising the Level of Personal Narrative Writing (If-Then)\**  ***and***  *The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction (1)*  *N* |
| *Writing About Reading (PPS)\**  *RL,RI* |
| November | *Reading Nonfiction, Reading the World (2)\**  *RI* | November | *Boxes and Bullets: Personal and Persuasive Essays (2)*  *O* |
| January | *Social Issues Book Clubs (If-Then)*  ***and***  *Poetry and Poetic Craft in Literature (If-Then)\**  *RL, RI* | January | *The Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction (4)\**  *O* |
| February – Mid -March | *Reading History: Native Americans (3)\**    *RI* | February– Mid-March | *Bringing History to Life (3)\**  *I* |
| Mid-March - April | *Unit of Choice\**  *RL, RI* | Mid-March - April | *Unit of Choice\**  *RL, RI* |
| April – mid-May | *Historical Fiction Book Clubs (4)*  *RI, RL* | April – Mid-May | *Historical Fiction: Tackling Complex Texts (If-Then)*  *I, N* |
| mid-May -June | *Author Study: Reading Like a Fan (If-Then)*  **and/or**  *Reading with the Lens of Power and Perspective (User Guide)\* RL* | mid-May-June | *Poetry Anthologies: Writing, Thinking, and Seeing More (If-Then)*  **and**  *Independent Writing Projects Across Genres\**  *P, N, I, O* |

\* **Please see pages 3 & 4**

**Additional Information to Guide Your Instruction**

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| **Codes** | ***Reading:*** RL – units mainly involving literature; RI – units mainly involving information reading  ***Writing:*** N – narrative writing; I-information writing; O-opinion writing; P-poetry writing |
| **Timing of the units** | The months on the calendar indicate when the unit **BEGINS.** Because you will want to adjust your instruction to best fit your students’ needs, you have some flexibility in the teaching of these units. You will have flexibility regarding:   * how long you will spend on a particular unit, in the cases where more than one unit is listed in a particular time period, * whether to teach two units one after the other or integrate two particular units simultaneously, * whether to expand or condense particular bends of units, * or whether to insert a mini-unit before or after a unit listed on the calendar.   Depending on the needs of your students, different decisions may need to be made, and your Literacy Coach will support you as you decide what may work best for a particular group of students.  We have indicated the **MUST START/END** dates to help you pace your instruction to allow all students to experience the same teaching and learning by key points in the year to accommodate students moving, assessment windows, and “fitting it all in.” |
| **And/Or** | Look across the plan for the year and decide:   * to teach two shorter units, one after the other * to teach one longer unit * to integrate one of the units as a mini-unit somewhere between other units (e.g. a two-week poetry unit between narrative and information units) |
| **Begin right away!** | There is no reason to WAIT to start these units. The first units of study in both Reading and Writing Workshop assume it is the first few days of school. The best day to start teaching the routines for reading and writing is the first day of school! |
| **Mini-Units** | Mini-units can be inserted at the end of longer units wherever you have time. For example, you may decide to insert a two-week poetry writing unit between *Realistic Fiction* and *Boxes and Bullets*, in December, or after the Literary Essay unit. Similarly, you may decide to insert a two-week unit on punctuation in any of these places. A weeklong unit on text-based narrative writing after *Literary Essay* is an excellent way to contrast essay and narrative writing prior to MCAS. An author’s craft inquiry study, particularly with an author of picture books or short texts, is a wonderful week-long mini-unit between any reading units of study. A great way to end the year is with a one-week choice genre reading unit (including a plan for summer reading)! |
| **Choice** | Consider ways to allow students to choose the genre in which they write periodically. Perhaps a few days before a new unit of study, for the last two weeks of school, the first week of school, or the week after a vacation. Minilessons would focus on selecting an idea then matching it to an appropriate genre, trying a topic across different genres, keeping in mind all that students know about a particular genre, among others. |

**Additional Information About Specific Units**

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| ***Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story*** | This unit reminds students of what they have learned in previous grades about character, while also deepening their knowledge and extending their understanding of theme. In October, there is an opportunity to extend the teaching and learning of this unit by adding parts of other units onto the end of this unit or weaving lessons throughout the unit. See suggestions below from *Writing About Reading* and *Poetry and Poetic Craft in Literature* to plan out this first unit of study. |
| ***Raising the Level of Personal Narrative Writing*** | Beginning the year with a **two-week** unit on personal narrative writing helps students remember all they know about narrative writing before diving into realistic fiction. The on-demand narrative prompt conducted the first few days of school will help you angle this mini-unit to target your students’ particular needs quickly. See the Literacy Coach website for suggestions on planning this unit. |
| ***Writing About Reading*** | Some options for this unit:   * Follow the calendar as is * Weave the fiction *Writing About Reading* lessons into the character unit and the nonfiction *Writing About Reading* lessons into the nonfiction unit * Integrate the *Writing About Reading* lessons as described above and teach a mini-unit on poetry between the character unit and the nonfiction unit (such as Bend I of *Little Things Are Big: Making Meaning from Poems and Poetic Craft in Literature*). |
| ***Reading Nonfiction, Reading the World*** | For this unit, teachers will use the resource *Reading the Weather, Reading the World*, Book 2 of *Units of Study for the Teaching of Reading.* However, this unit is not intended to address science standards. It is a unit intended to address the “Reading for Information” literacy standards from the Massachusetts Framework, using an engaging topic. It can be taught using any topic that motivates students in this work. |
| ***Poetry and Poetic Craft in Literature*** | The full title of this unit in the *If-Then* book is *Little Things Are Big: Making Meaning from Poems and Poetic Craft in Literature*. There are several options for including at least Bends I and II by the end of the year:   * Teach Bend I (about a week and a half) between *Interpreting Characters* and *Reading Nonfiction,* then revisit the ideas and extend them by teaching Bend II at the end of the year. * Teach Bends I and II (about 3 weeks) after *Social Issues Book Clubs* * Teach Bend I after *Interpreting Characters*, reteach a couple of key lessons during *Social Issues Book Clubs*, then teach Bend II after *Social Issues Book Clubs.* |
| ***The Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction*** | Before beginning this unit, you may decide to teach *The Literary Essay: Equipping Ourselves with the Tools to Write Expository Texts that Advance an Idea about Literature (If-Then)* as a transition between *Boxes and Bullets* and *The Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction.*  You may also want to save some time at the end of this unit to engage students in the work of writing text- connected fiction (new endings, alternate scenes, etc.) using the same mentor texts as they used for writing literary essays. |
| ***Reading History: Native Americans*** | For this unit, teachers will use the resource *Reading History: The American Revolution*, Book 3 of *Units of Study for the Teaching of Reading.* However, this resource uses a mentor topic that is not aligned with the Massachusetts Social Studies standards. Instead, teach the unit sessions using the mentor topic of Native Americans, which aligns with the MA SS standards. |
| ***Bringing History to Life*** | Because *Bringing History to Life* is a unit in which students write about the research they are conducting during the reading workshop, you may want to give students a couple of weeks during the reading workshop to gather this information and use the corresponding writing workshop time to allow students to recall their informational writing knowledge by writing about their own expert topics for a couple of weeks. As a guide to do this, you could use the alternate unit in the *If-Then* book, ***Information Writing: Writing about Topics of Personal Expertise*** or create your own mini-unit to support your students’ needs (see page 2 of this document for more suggestions of mini-units). |
| ***Unit of Choice*** | This is a nice opportunity to work with your Literacy Coach to develop a mini-unit to support your students’ needs. See the Mini-Units suggestions on page 2 of this document for ideas. During this time, you may also decide to teach a mini-unit entitled, *Strategies for Test-Taking*. This is an explicit way to teach students how to apply all that they have learned about reading and writing various genres and text types to formal testing situations. This can be integrated across the year or as a mini-unit in late March. |
| ***Reading with the Lens of Power and Perspective*** | This unit has a write-up from Teachers College Reading and Writing Project that will support your teaching. It supports students in thinking about literature in a more sophisticated manner, preparing them for the work they will do right away in grade 5. See the Literacy Coach website for suggestions on planning this unit. |
| ***Independent Writing Projects*** | This is a nice opportunity to provide students with choice about the type of writing they want to produce, given their message and audience. See the Literacy Coach website for suggestions on planning this unit, whether it is one, two, or three-week unit. |