

Summer Curriculum Work: Matching Texts to Units of Study

Grade 1 - Unit: Understanding Characters in Books

In this unit students will focus on the characters they meet in books – paying close attention to their characters’ actions and feelings. Using Lily (Kevin Henkes) and Peter (Ezra Jack Keats) as “mentor” characters students will get to know these characters more intimately as they listen to the stories and discuss the many interesting and funny things they do. (An additional benefit – Kevin Henkes and/or Ezra Jack Keats can then be used in the *Authors as Mentors* Writing Workshop Unit).

Characters students are likely to be familiar with from kindergarten – Consider having some of these titles available for students to reconnect with these characters as you begin this unit of study on character. Perhaps you could include some of these characters in your teaching points to help students use their schema as they further develop their understanding of character.

Knuffle Bunny books by Mo Willems

Pigeon books by Mo Willems

Elephant and Piggy books by Mo Willems

Llama Llama books by Anna Dewdney

Carl books by Alexandra Day

David books by David Shannon

Various titles from Emily Gravett

Encouraged Mentor Texts

Lilly and Friends: Kevin Henkes

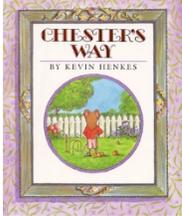
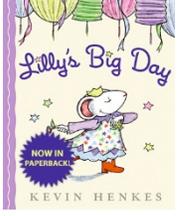
Chester's Way. Kevin Henkes. 1988. Greenwillow Books.

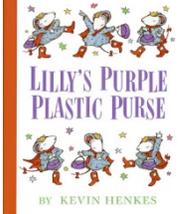
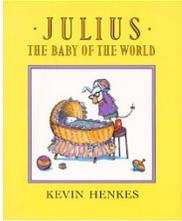
Lilly's Big Day. Kevin Henkes. 2006. Harper.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. Kevin Henkes. 1996. Scholastic Inc.

Julius, the Baby of the World. Kevin Henkes. 1990. Greenwillow.

Lilly is the character in all of these books. Lilly loves most everything and has a positive outlook on life. In each book, Lilly has many experiences that shape her as a character. Book cover images are from www.kevinhenkes.com

Bibliography	Annotation	Teaching Points	Picture
<p><i>Chester's Way</i>. Kevin Henkes. 1988. Greenwillow Books.</p>	<p>Chester loves doing everything his own way. Luckily, Chester's best friend also likes doing everything Chester's way. Lilly moves into the neighborhood and causes some trouble with the pair as she has her own way of doing things!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticing when one character reminds us of another character that acts or feels the same way • Showing our reading partners the actual parts in books that make us think something about a character 	
<p><i>Lilly's Big Day</i>. Kevin Henkes. 2006. Harper.</p>	<p>Lilly's teacher, Mr. Slinger, is getting married. Lilly has always dreamed about being a flower girl. She has big plans of her own to be his flower girl at the wedding. Mr. Slinger chooses his niece, Ginger, instead. Lilly is extremely disappointed but attends their wedding anyway. Lilly has to help a nervous Ginger on the big day!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicting next events by noticing what our characters tend to do • Noticing our character's actions, words and feelings to learn more about them • Noticing characters' feelings and how feelings change across a book 	

<p><i>Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse.</i> Kevin Henkes. 1996. Scholastic Inc.</p>	<p>Lilly loves most everything! She especially loves her teacher, Mr. Slinger. Lilly brings in her favorite possession to share at school, her purple plastic purse, and her beloved teacher takes it away. She becomes angry with him and wants revenge. She then feels remorseful for her behavior and actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know a character by noticing what she/he does • Retelling the stories of what our characters do across our fingers • Noticing our character's actions, words and feelings to learn more about them • Noticing characters' feelings and how feelings change across a book 	
<p><i>Julius, the Baby of the World.</i> Kevin Henkes. 1990. Greenwillow.</p>	<p>Lilly has a new baby brother named Julius. She thinks he is disgusting. She does not like having a brother at all until her cousin comes over and criticizes him. She becomes very protective and accepts him as her own!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticing characters' feelings and how feelings change across a book • Studying the cover and pictures of the book to learn more about a character 	

Peter and Friends: Ezra Jack Keats

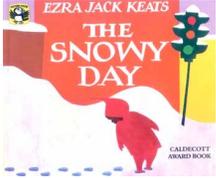
Snowy Day. Ezra Jack Keats. 1962. Viking. (Caldecott Award Book)

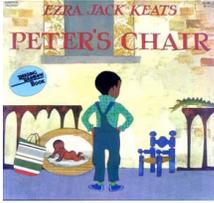
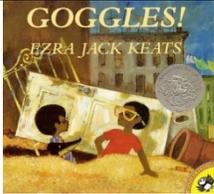
Whistle for Willie. Ezra Jack Keats. 1964. Viking.

Peter's Chair. Ezra Jack Keats. 1967. Harper and Row.

Goggles. Ezra Jack Keats. 1969. Macmillan.

Peter is the main character in each of these Ezra Jack Keats books. In each book the reader will notice Peter growing up and enjoying a variety of experiences and adventures. Most children will relate to Peter as they draw on their own schema to make connections with the character. Book cover images from Ezra Jack Keats' website www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ezras-books-characters/written-illustrated-by-ezra/.

Bibliography	Annotation	Teaching Points	Picture
<p><i>Snowy Day</i>. Ezra Jack Keats. 1962. Viking. (Caldecott Award Book)</p>	<p>In <i>Snowy Day</i> Peter is a young boy heading out for some solitary adventures in the snowy city. He experiments with footprints, poking sticks in the snow, snow angels, sliding down hills, and snowballs...even taking a snowball home in his pocket. After a warm tub Peter is disappointed to discover that the snowball is no longer in his pocket. The next day Peter goes out to play and explore with a friend from across the hall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know a character by noticing what she/he does • Retelling the stories of what our characters do across our fingers • Noticing our character's actions, words and feelings to learn more about them 	
<p><i>Whistle for Willie</i>. Ezra Jack Keats. 1964. Viking.</p>	<p>Peter is now a little older and is wishing he could whistle. Peter tries over and over to whistle, but is unsuccessful. At home (now a house) he puts on his father's hat to feel more grown up, but still no whistle. Peter goes back outside still wearing his father's hat as he continues to try to whistle. When he spies his dog, Willie, he again hides under a box and tries to whistle.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticing characters' feelings and how feelings change across a book • Getting to know a character by noticing what she/he does • Keeping track of characters' actions using post-it notes (and using these post-its for retelling) 	

	Finally, a real whistle sound comes out and Willie comes running to Peter.		
<i>Peter's Chair</i> . Ezra Jack Keats. 1967. Harper and Row.	<p>Peter is now a big brother. He has a baby sister, Susie. As Peter peeks in his sister's room he notices his old cradle, now painted pink. Next, he sees his father painting his old high chair pink, and then he realizes his old crib has also been painted pink for Susie. Feeling a little possessive he grabs his chair and takes it to his room where he makes plans to run away with Willie, the chair, and a few other special possessions. Later, sitting in his grown-up chair at lunch Peter suggests to his father that they should paint his old chair pink for Susie.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying the cover and pictures of the book to learn more about a character • Noticing characters' feelings and how feelings change across a book • Noticing our character's actions, words and feelings to learn more about them • Predicting next events by noticing what our characters tend to do • Noticing when one character reminds us of another character that acts or feels the same way (consider connecting with Kevin Henkes book <i>Julius, the Baby of the World</i>) 	
<i>Goggles</i> . Ezra Jack Keats. 1969. Macmillan.	<p>Peter, Willie, and Peter's friend, Archie, are playing in their hideout in an abandoned lot. Peter finds some old motorcycle goggles. As they head out to sit on the steps at Archie's house they are confronted with some big boys who demand Peter give them the goggles. Peter does not give in. When Willie runs off with the goggles the big boys chase after Willie. Peter and Archie take different routes back to their hideout. Willie meets them there and they are able to fool the big boys and get away.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying the cover and pictures of the book to learn more about a character • Noticing our character's actions, words and feelings to learn more about them 	

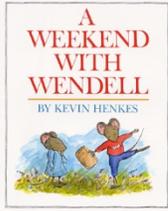
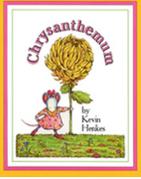
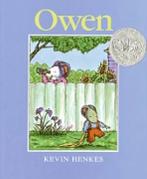
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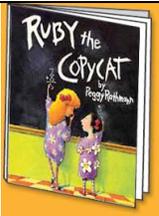
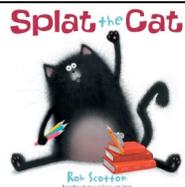
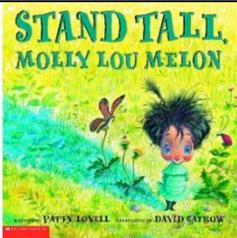
The following focus teaching points can be used with any mentor texts:

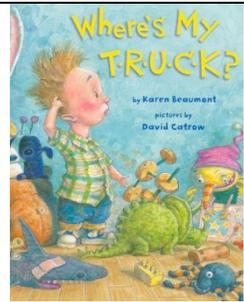
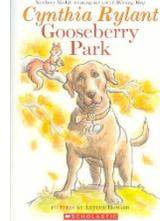
- Sharing our thoughts about our books with reading partners
- Rereading and using word-solving tools to figure our tricky words and parts
- Using post-it notes to mark our thinking about characters to share with our reading partners
- Showing our reading partners the actual parts in books that make us think something about a character

Additional Mentor Titles to Support this Unit

These titles were selected because they fit in with the teaching points of the unit. They offer some variety with additional characters. The teaching points have been left blank to allow you to make your own professional choices in how you might choose to use these texts. (Kevin Henkes book cover images are from his author website: www.kevinhenkes.com.)

Bibliography	Annotation	Teaching Points	Picture
<p><i>A Weekend with Wendell</i>. Kevin Henkes. 1986. Greenwillow</p>	<p>Wendell is spending the weekend with Sophie and her family. He likes doing things his own way and bosses Sophie around throughout his time there and is also unkind to Sophie. Finally, Sophie has enough and creates a game that puts her in charge. They realize their friendship is important and create a more equal playing field together.</p>		
<p><i>Chrysanthemum</i>. Kevin Henkes. 1991. Greenwillow.</p>	<p>Chrysanthemum loves her name. Her parents think it is just perfect. When Chrysanthemum goes to school, other students make fun of her name. She tries to persuade them to think her name is wonderful. Her music teacher, Mrs. Twinkle comes to the rescue, helping to make others see how special her name really is.</p>		
<p><i>Owen</i>. Kevin Henkes. 1993. Greenwillow.</p>	<p>Owen loves his yellow blanket. His blanket goes everywhere he goes. Owen's parents will not allow him to bring the blanket to school. They try saying no, giving it to the blanket fairy, and even making it smell with vinegar. They come up with the solution to turn the blanket into handkerchiefs that he can take to school.</p>		

<p><i>Ruby the Copycat.</i> Peggy Rathmann. 1991. Scholastic.</p>	<p>Ruby is a new student at this school. She is invited to sit behind Angela. She notices Angela's beautiful red bow. When she hops home for lunch, she puts a red bow in her hair to be like Angela. Each day Ruby copies something else from Angela. When Miss Hart, the teacher, speaks to Ruby after school, she encourages Ruby to be herself. Ruby smiles as she admires Miss Hart's polished fingernails...</p>		 <p>http://www.peggyrathmann.com/rubythecopycat.html</p>
<p><i>Splat the Cat.</i> Rob Scotton. 2008. HarperCollins.</p>	<p>In this first book, Rob Scotton introduces us to Splat the cat. He's worried about his first day at cat school and tries several excuses not to go to school. Splat drops his mouse friend, Seymour, into his lunch box for support. After being welcomed at school, Splat learns how amazing, clever, cunning, and quick cats are. When the teacher tells the class that cats chase mice, Splat wants to know why... After lunch the teacher revises her statement about cats chasing mice.</p>		 <p>http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/c/ce/Splat the Cat.jpg</p>
<p><i>Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon.</i> Patty Lovell. Illus. David Catrow. 2001. Putnam. ↓</p>	<p>Being short and clumsy with buck teeth and a voice that sounds like a bullfrog, Molly Lou Melon wisely calls to mind her grandmother's advice to walk tall, to smile big, to sing out clear and strong, and to believe in herself, especially when confronted with a challenge. When Molly Lou's family moves to a new town she has to start over at a new school. Ronald Durkin calls Molly Lou all kinds of unkind names, but Molly Lou perseveres and wins Ronald and the other kids over by following her grandmother's advice.</p>		 <p>http://rif.scholastic.com/prek-2/collections/fiction/stand-tall-molly-lou-</p>

			melon.htm
<p><i>Where's My T-R-U-C-K.</i> Karen Beaumont. Illus. David Catrow. 2011. Scholastic.</p>	<p>Afraid to say the word truck, Tommy's parents spell the word. His sister and brother try unsuccessfully to distract Tommy with other toys and activities. With rhyming text on each page Tommy searches the house high and low for his truck. As readers look closely at the illustrations they will notice the pet dog, Bowser, running around with all kinds of toys and things in his mouth. Tommy continues his search outside and eventually notices Bowser has dug a hole by the gate for his treasures.</p>		 <p>http://www.amazon.com/Wheres-My-T%2%B7R%2%B7U%2%B7C%2%B7K-Karen-Beaumont/dp/0803732228</p>
<p><u>Chapter Book to Support this Unit</u></p>			
<p><i>Gooseberry Park.</i> Cynthia Rylant. 1995. Harcourt.</p>	<p><i>Gooseberry Park</i> is a story of friendship. Kona, a chocolate Labrador retriever, and Gwendolyn, a hermit crab, are retired Professor Albert's pets, but more importantly they are dear friends. Professor Albert takes Kona for walks in Gooseberry Park. While the professor reads or naps, Kona strolls around the park. One day he meets Stumpy, a red squirrel, and they too become friends. Kona tells Gwendolyn all about his friend Stumpy and that she going to have babies. A terrible ice storm brings new challenges to the friends.</p>		 <p>http://www.wvbookco.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=gooseberry</p>

Titles that Support Independent Reading/Small Group Instruction

The following are books/series that may be available in your book rooms for guided reading and independent reading.

Bella and Rosie

Pickles

Jasper

Spaceboy

Jack and Billy

Jack and Daisy

Gilbert

Bully Dinosaur

Max

The following are additional series to support this character unit for below or on grade level readers.

Penny by Kevin Henkes

Splat the Cat by Rob Scotton

The following are additional series to support this character unit for above level readers.

Mr. Putter by Cynthia Rylant.

Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant.

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant.

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel.

Clifford by Norman Bridwell

Grade 1 - Unit: Understanding Characters in Traditional Literature

This unit continues the work of character within the context of traditional literature:

- Noticing characters' actions, words and feelings and how they change across a book
- Identifying characteristics found in folktales and fairy tales
- Noticing how the author tells us who is telling the story in a particular part of a text
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of characters in stories
- Talking about the central lesson of a tale

Choose Two Titles from Each Category of Mentor Texts – Any of these tales can be used with all of the teaching points in Traditional Literature.

Tales that include magic:

Cinderella

Rapunzel

Rumpelstiltskin

The Sword and the Stone

The Gingerbread Man

Jack and the Beanstalk

Tales that do not include magic:

Tortoise and the Hare

Little Red Riding Hood

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The Three Little Pigs

The Lion and the Mouse

Chicken Little

The Little Red Hen

The Little Boy Who Cried Wolf

Robin Hood

Created by the Elementary Summer Curriculum Project Committee 2014

Additional Mentor Titles to Support this Unit

After Students Have Read Traditional Tales they may enjoy some of these different versions of the traditional tales. These titles would lend themselves to prediction and comparing/contrasting learning opportunities.

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark. Ken Geist. Illus. Julia Gorton. 2007. Scholastic.

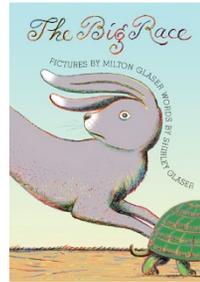
The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza. Philemon Sturges. Illus. Amy Walrod. 1999. Scholastic.



The Snail and the Whale. Julia Donaldson. Illus. Axel Scheffler. 2003. Puffin.

http://www.babyoye.com/h/Stories,-Rhymes-&-Tales/Story-Books/Pan-Macmillan-The-Snail-And-The-Whale---Big-Book/p_HP00015948

This story is about a small snail and a large whale. The snail dreams of going to faraway places. The whale agrees to help him by giving him a ride. They travel all over together until one day the whale swims too close to shore and is beached. Although small, the snail manages to save the day!



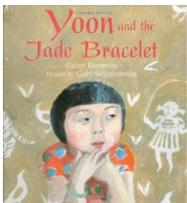
The Big Race. Shirley Glaser. Illus. Milton Glaser. 2005. Hyperion.

<http://www.miltonglaser.com/files/theBigRace-6765.jpg>

The Tortoise and the Hare are still racing... Shirley Glaser takes readers around the world as the Tortoise and the Hare continue to challenge each other. Each page has illustrations and text on the top half and on the bottom half. When the reader gets to the end of the book, they flip the book and the race continues back to the starting point. Once back at the starting point, the Hare challenges the Tortoise to another race. The end pages include a map of the race course with names of countries and interesting details of each country.

Yoon and the Jade Bracelet. Helen Recorvits. Illus. Gabi Swiatkowska. 2008. Frances Foster.

(*My Name is Yoon*. Helen Recorvits. Illus. Gabi Swiatkowska. 2003. Frances Foster. Yoon is introduced in this book as a recent immigrant from Korea to America.)



http://www.amazon.com/Yoon-Jade-Bracelet-Helen-Recorvits/dp/0374386897/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1405448819&sr=8-1&keywords=yoon+and+the+jade+bracelet

Yoon would really like a jump rope for her birthday, but instead Yoon's mother gives her a Korean storybook about a little girl who is tricked by a tiger and a jade bracelet that Yoon's grandmother had given to Yoon's mother as a child. Yoon soon realizes that she is like the girl in the Korean tale who has been tricked – not by a tiger, but by an older student at school. Now she knows what to do.

Created by the Elementary Summer Curriculum Project Committee 2014

NOTE: The following are characters/books that second graders get to know. Please try not to use these for instructional purposes.

Tony Baloney by Pam Munoz Ryan and Edwin Fotheringham

Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo

Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie by Julie Sternberg

Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends by Wong Herbert Yee

Amazing Monty by Johanna Hurwitz