

## Lucy Calkins Classroom Libraries Video Interview Transcript

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**Question:** *Why are there some additional Shelves that are not in the core Libraries?*

**Lucy:** You might be a little surprised at the topics that we have built shelves around. You might wonder, “why do you have The America Revolution and you don't have the Holocaust?” Or “why do you have extreme weather, or civil rights, or geography?” And there are a couple of different answers to these questions.

First of all, we wanted to make sure that we had Shelves that matched the Units of Study that we've developed. To do that we deliberately built a shelf around a particularly important topic or two presented in the Units, like science, for example, because we wanted to teach kids how to skillfully read scientific texts. When you're reading texts on weather, there are graphs and charts and numbers and statistics and scientific processes, so the process of reading scientific texts is a little bit different than reading history texts. In this way, we developed the weather shelf to correspond with the Unit of Study we have on extreme weather. The same principles apply to the America Revolution shelf. Additionally, we wanted a westward expansion shelf that corresponds with the Units of Study, as the American Revolution and westward expansion were two history topics that we've highlighted in the Units of Study books.

Secondly, there were other shelves that we built because when we were developing these Libraries, we just saw books that made us say, “Oh my gosh, these books are incredible, we absolutely need to somehow include them in our Libraries.” That was the case with the geography books and the civil rights books in particular. They were just incredible books, but they didn't exactly qualify as the high-interest non-fiction in that we think they require a teacher to kind of steer kids towards them, and to do a little bit of helping kids to understand them.

So sometimes the Shelves came because the books were just there, and we thought, “You've got to see what we're seeing.” And sometimes the Shelves were developed because they go with the Units of Study.

*To learn more about the TCRWP Classroom Libraries, browse representative titles, and order shelves, visit [calkinslibraries.com](http://calkinslibraries.com)*