

Units of Study in Phonics, Grades K—2  
By Lucy Calkins and TCRWP Colleagues

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**Question:** *How are the Units of Study in Phonics more efficient and practical than other resources?*

**Lucy Calkins:**

Make sure that you understand that for us it's been really important that phonics instruction is, is efficient. That it doesn't take 45 minutes because ultimately you need to teach phonics and then you need to make sure that the kids are practicing it and using it as readers and as writers. So, a part of our units of study in phonics has been a book which we have been working very hard on, we're really proud of, of small group work in phonics. And the interesting thing about those small groups is they're not actually designed to be taught during phonics workshop so much as during reading workshop and then during writing workshop. The other thing that we've designed are just nudges, just reminding teachers that if it's writing workshop time, not a bad idea to sit beside a child and if this, you've been teaching the long vowel in phonics, sit beside a child as they write and just say how you're going to signal that this is a long vowel? You're going to do it with a silent E or you're going to do it with your vowel teams. So, or you're right that it starts with an S but there's actually another letter there. Listen again 'cause this is a blend. So just realizing that you can do little tiny nudges inside of writing workshop and inside of reading workshop to kind of remind kids to be drawn in all that they're learning in phonics as they write and as they read.

For more information on the Units of Study in Phonics from Lucy Calkins and TCRWP colleagues, visit: [unitsofstudy.com/phonics](https://unitsofstudy.com/phonics)