

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

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Question: *Why is phonics so important for writers?*

Lucy Calkins:

I'm especially looking forward to teachers seeing the connection between a writing workshop and a phonics workshop. I remember talking to my friend Donald Bear about phonics. Donald said to me, "What's the difference between spelling and phonics for these babies? None," he says; "there is no difference." So much of early phonics instruction is really teaching kids how to identify and use letters and sounds when they're writing. The most obvious connection between teaching phonics is teaching kids to take what they know about letters and sounds and word parts and short vowels and long vowels and use them as writers. There's a very close connection between our writing workshop and the phonics units of study.