

Supplemental Texts

Unit 1: *Building Strong Communities*

The following is a list of additional texts that could deepen learning within this unit. Consider adding a few of these texts to the class library and/or offering some of these titles to feed particular interests during Studios work and throughout the day. The list includes fiction texts, non-fiction texts, texts by Maine authors/illustrators, and Wabanaki texts.

Current Unit Texts by Grade Level:

It might be helpful to reference or even borrow some texts from the previous/next grade level(s) to strengthen alignment.

K for ME <i>Our Community</i>	1st Grade for ME <i>Building Strong Communities</i>	2nd Grade for ME <i>How We Learn in Our School Communities</i>
<i>Abiyoyo</i> <i>Abuela</i> <i>Full, Full, Full of Love</i> <i>Amazing Grace</i> <i>The Name Jar</i> <i>Bippity Bop Barbershop</i> <i>Chrysanthemum</i> <i>Big Al and Shrimpy</i>	<i>All Are Welcome</i> <i>Mango, Abuela, and Me</i> <i>Chik Chak Shabbot</i> <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> <i>Doing Your Part</i> <i>Quinto's Neighborhood</i> <i>Mama Miti</i> <i>Biblioburro</i> <i>Waiting for the Biblioburro</i> <i>Maybe Something Beautiful</i> <i>Wanda's Roses</i>	<i>Upside Down Boy</i> <i>Louie</i> <i>Rainbow Joe and Me</i> <i>Seeds of Change</i> <i>A Letter to My Teacher</i> <i>Dear Mr. Rosenwald</i>

Fictional Text Ideas

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Bitsy Bat, School Star</i>	Kaz Windness	2023	Bitsy is a little bat with big star dreams of making friends at her new school. But when she arrives, Bitsy doesn't feel like she fits in. The other kids sit on their chairs, but sitting upright makes Bitsy dizzy. The other kids paint with their fingers, but Bitsy would rather use her toes. Everyone tells Bitsy she's doing things wrong-wrong-wrong, so she tries harder...and ends up having a

			five-star meltdown. Now Bitsy feels like a very small star and doesn't want to go back to school. But with help from her family, Bitsy musters her courage, comes up with a new plan, and discovers that being a good friend is just one of the ways she shines bright!
<i>Blizzard</i>	Jon Rocco	2014	Based on John Rocco's childhood experience during the Blizzard of 1978, this companion to BLACKOUT is the story of how one intrepid boy embarks on an expedition and becomes the hero of his neighborhood.
<i>Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do</i>	Kathryn Heling Deborah Hembrook	2014	Who wears what to work? The clues in each kid-friendly rhyme can be spotted hanging from the clothesline—from a mail carrier's uniform to a firefighter's pants and heavy coat. Then turn the page to learn which professionals wear and use the special gear in the jobs they do. Clever illustrations show the workers helping one another, and in the end, everyone comes together for a celebration that is out of this world.
<i>The Curious Garden</i>	Peter Brown	2009	This is a quietly beautiful story about a boy in a dreary town who discovers a straggling garden while out on a walk. He decides to care for it, nurturing it with love, patience and perseverance, even after it is harmed by the elements. Once he nurtures the garden, an amazing thing happens – gardeners appear from all around the city to help! They all revitalize the city's landscape, bringing life to the city and blue to the skies. This book is stunning both in story and illustration, with themes of perseverance, environmental activism, and community improvement.
<i>A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love</i>	Michelle Edwards G. Brian Karas	2016	Mrs. Goldman is known for knitting hats for everyone in the neighborhood and helps so many people stay warm during winter's chill. So when the freezing temperatures arrive and Mrs. Goldman has no hat of her own because she is so busy knitting for all her neighbors, Sophia decides to make something special for her special friend. A wonderful story of paying it forward that describes how small acts of generosity make the largest impacts on people's lives!
<i>Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community</i>	Susan Verde	2018	One creative boy. One bare, abandoned wall. One BIG idea. There is a wall in Ángel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone. Told in elegant verse by Susan Verde and vibrantly illustrated by John Parra, this inspiring picture book celebrates the power of art to tell a story and bring a community together.
<i>I Am You: A Book About Ubuntu</i>	Refiloe Moahloli	2022	In southern Africa, there is a belief called <i>ubuntu</i>—the idea that we are all connected. No matter where we're from or who we are, a person is a person through their connections to other people. With simple, lyrical text and charming artwork, this lively picture book first published in South Africa is the perfect

			introduction to the concept of ubuntu for young kids. A celebration of friendship and kindness, the book shows children the many ways that we are all one.
<i>Lolo's Sari-Sari Store</i>	Sophia Lee	2023	A little girl holds lessons learned in her grandfather's sari-sari store close while adjusting to a new home in this sweet picture book about the joy of community, connection, and Filipino culture. For one girl, summers used to mean helping Lolo run his sari-sari store, which was always brimming with goods for the neighborhood: shampoo packets for Ate Jane, rice and eggs for Tonton, and a sympathetic ear for anyone who needed it. "Sari-sari means a good variety—just look around and you'll see. What help can you give your community?" Lolo would say, as he filled his shelves with what people would need. Now that she's far from the Philippines, she misses Lolo and the friendly faces that surrounded his sari-sari store. But when she remembers her grandfather's words, her heart keeps Lolo close, and she starts to see opportunities for connection and community in her new home.
<i>Look Where We Live!: A First Book of Community Building</i>	Scot Ritchie	2015	This cheery picture book emphasizes the importance of community, describing the different facets of one particular suburban neighborhood. A multiethnic group of young friends—Nick, Pedro, Yulee, Sally, and others—take part in activities together as they prepare for a street fair to raise money for the local library. The neighborhood tour includes some familiar picture book community staples, such as the library and a community garden. Each section also highlights important aspects of living in a community and includes a brief comment or conversation prompt.
<i>Not Just the Driver</i>	Sara Holly Ackerman	2024	Come along for the ride and meet the teams behind the machines that get us to our destinations in this "spirited...engaging" rhyming picture book celebrating transportation teamwork and featuring vibrant art! Who makes buses rev and go, through detours, gridlock, storms, and snow? Who sends riders—CLICK, CLICK, CLACK—down the proper railroad track? It's not just drivers and pilots and conductors! It's also mechanics and maintenance workers, loaders and air traffic controllers, ticket agents and dispatchers. Young readers will meet the people who work behind the scenes to keep us and our vehicles moving and explore a whole slew of fun—and <i>essential</i>—transportation professions!
<i>Our Pool</i>	Lucy Ruth Cummins	2023	Today is a pool day in the city! The sun is shining, so what are you waiting for? Friends and family. Kids and grandparents. Big bodies and small bodies. <i>Everybody</i> is welcome at our pool! Get ready for swimming and splashing, zigzagging and dunking, and racing and laughing.

<i>They're Heroes Too</i>	Patt Brisson	2022	A picture-book celebration of the ordinary people—grownups and kids—who hold our world together by going about their daily lives and work. We celebrate cops, firefighters, and soldiers, and rightly so. But let's also celebrate teachers, bus drivers, grocery clerks, mail carriers, and the other folks who keep the world spinning around every day. And let's give a nod to kids, too—kids who are kind and brave and help each other. They're heroes too.
<i>This is How We Do It</i>	Matt Lemothe	2017	In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days; and this one world we all share; unites them.
<i>The Very Last Castle</i>	Travis Jonker Mark Pett	2018	There's one old, seemingly abandoned castle is ripe for rumors, and the people in town have no problem spinning tales about the horrors that must lie inside. We love the way this book challenges the preconceived notions of an entire community – all, that is, but one small, curious girl who constantly tries to catch the eye of the man guarding the mysterious castle. The child overcomes fear of the unknown by being brave enough to discover for herself what really lies behind the foreboding doors. In the process, she discovers her inner courage, makes a new friend, and creates a big change right within her neighborhood.
<i>We Are Better Together</i>	Bill McKibben	2022	When we work together, we humans can do incredible things. We share the responsibility to address climate change and our changing planet. It is critical that we act collectively to protect our beautiful, fragile world.

Nonfiction Text Ideas

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Change Sings: A Children's Anthem</i>	Amanda Gorman	2021	A young girl can hear change coming. It's loud, it's proud, and she's excited to sing along. Guitar in tow, she heads off on a journey. In each new place she visits, she inspires other children to use their voice (and instruments) to help others.
<i>I Am We: A Book of Community</i>	Susan Verde	2024	Sometimes we may wonder, how does caring for ourselves help anyone else? But then we realize that the better we feel inside, the more we can be there for others—our friends, families, and communities. We are part of something bigger than ourselves, and when we each turn our goodness and compassion outward, we can create, learn, and love.
<i>Whose Hands Are These?</i>	Miranda Paul	2016	If your hands can mix and mash, what job might you have? Hands can wiggle; hands can clap. Hands can wrap and flap and tap.

			But hands can help—so raise yours, please! Can you guess? Whose hands are these? What if your hands reach, wrench, yank, and crank? The hands in this book—and the people attached to them—do all sorts of helpful work. And together, these helpers make their community a safe and fun place to live. As you read, keep an eye out for community members who make repeat appearances! Can you guess all the jobs based on the actions of these busy hands?
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Texts with Authors/Illustrators from Maine

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Big Truck, Little Island</i>	Chris VanDusen	2022	That big truck is stuck! How will the island residents get where they're going? A tale of community and ingenuity from the celebrated Chris Van Dusen, inspired by a true story. When a big truck and its big load get stuck on a narrow road, traffic on the little island comes to a halt. Some cars need to go south, and some have to travel north. How will Meg get to her swim meet? What about Barry's ballet class? Luckily, the kids come up with an ingenious solution: why not just swap cars? Inspired by an incident that happened on Vinalhaven, Maine, Chris Van Dusen tells a fun tale of resourcefulness and community through clever, rhyming wordplay and whimsical illustrations, sprinkled with plenty of cars and trucks for transportation-loving readers.
Kende! Kende! Kende!	Kirsten Cappy and Yaya Gentile	2023	Lolie's childhood in a village in Central Africa is filled with laughter and curiosity. She loves to Kende, Kende, Kende, or Go, Go, Go! But when fighting nears the village, Papá must load Lolie into a wheelbarrow and flee as fast as her pregnant Mamá can walk. Lolie distracts herself on the journey by observing how bicycles and trucks move and by helping baby Nico be born "right there on four wheels." In their years in a refugee camp, Lolie's responsibilities grow as does baby Nico's ability to restore the family's laughter. Resettled in the US, the family awakes to a blizzard and the realization that Mamá, again pregnant, must go to the hospital. The family makes another journey through the unknown, relying on new words and a community of Mamás to help them Kende, Kende, Kende. This story is fiction, but it is inspired by the real journeys of many families originating from Central Africa who were forced to leave their homes. In the authors' imagining, Lolie and her family were from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and spent several years in the Rwamwanja Refugee Camp in Uganda. Despite these specific locations, this book could be about any of the millions of displaced people worldwide. Written in both French and English

			with action words in Lingala, the multi-language text is a literal embodiment of the way that people from Central Africa move through many languages to build community and to navigate migration. This is an honest but hopeful own-voice narrative about displacement, migration, and finding a new home.
Miss Rumphius	Barbara Cooney		The story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went.

Wabanaki Culture

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Many Hands</i>	Angeli Perrow	2011	Why does everyone keep telling Lily that many hands make the basket? Didn't she make the basket with her very own hands? It is the most beautiful basket of her 10-year-old life, and no one will give her the credit she deserves. In the end, she learns a valuable lesson about pride and the spirit of community. Into the story is woven the process of basket making and a Wabanaki animal legend, as well as some words of the Penobscot language.
<i>Walking Together</i>	Albert D. Marshall Lousie Zimanyi	2023	<i>Walking Together</i> nurtures respectful, reciprocal, responsible relationships with the Land and Water, plant life, animals, and other-than-human beings for the benefit of all. It teaches us that when we walk together in a good way, our actions are always in harmony and balance with the Land and All Our Relations.