

Supplemental Texts

Unit 4: *Communicating with Light and Sound*

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.

Kindergarten Texts N/A	First Grade Texts <i>Communicating with Light and Sound</i>	Second Grade Texts N/A
	<i>The Sound of Silence</i> <i>Max</i> <i>Sounds All Around</i> <i>Amazing Sound</i> <i>Messages with Light and Sound</i> <i>All About Light</i> <i>Oscar and the Moth: A Book about Light and Dark</i> <i>Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie</i> <i>Rosie Revere, Engineer</i> <i>Marvellous Mattie</i> <i>Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin</i> <i>Snowflake Bentley</i> <i>The Lizard and the Sun Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles</i>	

Fictional Text Ideas

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Ada Twist, Scientist</i>	<i>Andrea Beaty</i>	2016	Inspired by real-life makers Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie, this beloved #1 bestseller champions STEM, girl power and women scientists in a rollicking celebration of curiosity, the power of perseverance, and the importance of asking “Why?”
<i>Flashlight</i>	Lizi Boyd	2014	In this charming story, told solely through images, artist Lizi Boyd offers an enchanting exploration of night, nature, and the nocturnal world. One boy's camping adventure gets even better when he shines a light into the shadows and finds all sorts of nighttime creatures, fascinating insects, plants, trees, and streams—all brilliantly illuminated in the beam of his flashlight.
<i>Izzy Gizmo</i>	Pip Jones	2017	Izzy Gizmo's inventions are marvelous, magnificent...and often malfunction. Despite the fact that she loves to invent, it never seems to work out in her favor. But when she finds a crow with a broken wing, she has to help! Izzy tries again and again to build the crow a new pair of wings, but nothing is working. Can Izzy overcome her failures? Or is her friend destined to live as a crow who can't fly?
<i>Izzy Gizmo and the Invention Convention</i>	Pip Jones	2022	Izzy Gizmo and her crow sidekick, Fixer, have been invited to Technoff Isle's annual convention where the inventor of the best machine will win a membership to the Genius Guild. Great inventors produce gadgets that can be put to good use, so Izzy decides to build a recycling machine that mends broken tools. But with fearsome competitor Abi von Lavish hogging all the materials and getting the best of Izzy at every turn, how will Izzy ever be able to create the winning invention?
<i>Oscar and the Bat: A Book About Sound</i>	Geoff Waring	2009	Start with Science books introduce kids to core science concepts through engaging stories, fresh illustrations, and supplemental activities. When Oscar hears a blackbird singing in the meadow, Bat swoops in to talk to him about sound. A sudden thunderstorm and a visiting cow give Oscar lots of opportunities to learn about sounds that are loud or soft, near or far, deep or high.
<i>MoonBear's Skyfire</i>	Frank Asch	2014	When Moonbear looks out his window and sees a rainbow for the first time, he's sure the sky is on fire. He is determined to put out the skyfire, but Little Bird has other ideas. How about finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, instead? This refreshed edition of a beloved classic features the original

			text and art with an updated cover.
<i>Song in the City</i>	Daniel Bernstrom	2022	A young blind girl, filled with the sounds of her beloved city, shares a song with her grandmother that changes the two forever. After helping Grandma realize that the city makes music as beautiful as the sounds they hear in church on Sunday morning, the two sit down and take in all the sounds of the city . . . together.
<i>Symphony for a Broken Orchestra</i>	Amy Ignatow	2022	What happens when musical instruments can't make the sounds we expect them to make? Is music still possible? The schools of Philadelphia were filling up with broken violins, drums, pianos, and more, making it difficult for students to learn to play. This sparked an idea for a symphony, played entirely with the broken instruments, that would raise funds to repair the instruments themselves. Musicians young and old volunteered, and their captivating performance showed that even something broken can sing--and that great music is always possible with a bit of inventiveness and improvisation. Based on a true story, this book celebrates a community coming together to make a joyful, meaningful noise
<i>The Most Magnificent Thing</i>	Ashley Spires	2014	The girl has a wonderful idea. "She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. Easy-peasy!" But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, she comes back to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to get it just right.
<i>There is a Rainbow</i>	Theresa Trinder	2021	A hopeful picture book that reminds readers we are all connected. Sometimes we are separated by distance, sometimes by the way we feel. Even though the world is full of barriers that can make us feel alone, we are all just on one end of a rainbow—connected by all that color and light, there is always something, or someone, waiting for us on the other side!
<i>The Noisy Paint Box</i>	Barb Rosenstock	2014	Vasya Kandinsky was a proper little boy: he studied math and history, he practiced the piano, he sat up straight and was perfectly polite. And when his family sent him to art classes, they expected him to paint pretty houses and flowers—like a proper artist. But as Vasya opened his paint box and began mixing the reds, the yellows, the blues, he heard a strange sound—the swirling colors trilled like an orchestra tuning up for a symphony! And as he grew older, he continued to <i>hear</i> brilliant colors singing and <i>see</i> vibrant sounds dancing. But was Vasya brave enough to put aside his proper still lifes and portraits and paint . . . <i>music</i>?

Nonfiction Text Ideas

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Summary</i>
<i>A Day in the Life of a Photon</i>	Kimberly Hutmacher	2015	Playful introduction to how light interacts with surfaces and moves from place to place.
<i>All About Light and Sound</i>	Connie Jankowski	2018 Revision	Light and sound help us recognize objects and noises! This fascinating book will allow readers to understand how vibrations, radiant energy, wavelength, frequency, amplitude, reflection, optics, and sound waves help us to see and hear the world around us. Through vivid images, helpful facts, intriguing sidebars, an accommodating glossary and index, and a hands-on lab activity, readers will be engaged from beginning to end!
<i>Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights</i>	W.H. Beck	2016	Why be afraid of the dark when there is so much to see? Whether it's used to hunt, hide, find a friend, or escape an enemy, bioluminescence—the ability to glow—is a unique adaptation in nature. In this fun and fascinating nonfiction picture book, join world-renowned photographers and biologists on their close encounters with the curious creatures that make their own light.
<i>How Do Rainbows Form?</i>	Rebecca Pettiford	2023	In this book, early readers will learn about how rainbows form in the sky. Vibrant, full-color photos and carefully leveled text will engage beginning readers as they learn how raindrops refract light to form rainbows. A picture diagram shows how rainbows form from white light and make a spectrum, while a picture glossary reinforces new vocabulary. Children can learn more about rainbows online using our safe search engine that provides relevant, age-appropriate websites.
<i>I Heard a Sound</i>	David Ward	2020	Learn the science of sound with easy experiments and examples from everyday life. Crickets, clarinets, and vocal chords. All vibrate. All make sound. Here is science learning at it's best: a kid-friendly, accessible text, with bold, retro-styled illustrations, and hands-on experiments you can try at home!
<i>Light</i>	Ellen Lawrence	2014	From switching on a lamp to seeing the sun rise in the morning, we experience light every day, but what exactly is light? In this title, students will have the opportunity to conduct experiments to help them understand what light is, how it travels, and how

			we see it. Kids will also investigate concepts such as what causes shadows to form, and how white light is made up of a mixture of different colors. Using everyday items that kids can easily find around the house, students will transform into scientists as they carry out step-by-step experiments to answer interesting questions. Along the way, children will pick up important scientific skills as they investigate light, record their observations, and draw conclusions. Light includes seven experiments with detailed, age-appropriate instructions, surprising facts and background information, a "Conclusions" section to pull all the concepts in the book together, and a glossary of science words. Colorful, dynamic designs and images truly put the FUN into FUN-damental Experiments. *Not a read aloud but could be a resource for super curious kids who want to explore more with light on their own through experiments.
<i>Light and Sound</i>	Dr. Mike Goldsmith	2007	Readers are introduced to the science behind light and sound in this wonderful new addition to the KFYK series. The ways in which light and sound are used will amaze children-- light can be used to create laser technology, while ultrasound enables doctors to see inside the human body
<i>Light Waves</i>	David Adler	2018	This kid-friendly introduction to the physics of light covers the basics of solar energy, the electromagnetic spectrum, photon particles, light scattering, and reflection and refraction. Readers will follow along as two children and a cow in a lab coat learn how light works in realistic and imaginative scenarios. With accessible language, grounded examples, and easy, hands-on experiments you can do with household items, David A. Adler explains the basics of how light travels and bends. Anna Raff's bright, humorous illustrations make an intimidating topic easy-- and fun!-- to understand. This colorful picture book is a perfect supplement to lessons on light waves, and a great way to explore the topic at home.
<i>Listen!</i>	Shannon Stocker	2021	From the moment Evelyn Glennie heard her first note, music held her heart. She played the piano by ear at age eight, and the clarinet by age ten. But soon, the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, and Evelyn was told that, as a deaf girl, she could never be a musician. What sounds Evelyn couldn't hear with her ears, though, she could <i>feel</i> resonate through her body as if she, herself, were a drum. And the music she created was extraordinary. Evelyn Glennie had learned how to listen in a new way. And soon, the world was listening too. Sesame Street: Evelyn Glennie Plays the Drums

<i>Northern Lights</i>	Grace Hansen	2020	This book teaches kids about what the Northern lights are and how the sun and Earth's atmosphere causes them. The book is complete with labeled images when needed, simple text, and more facts. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.
<i>Rainbows</i>	Grace Hansen	2019	This book teaches kids about what rainbows are and how water, sunlight, and a little bit of science creates them. The book is complete with labeled images when needed, simple text, and more facts.
<i>Rainbows Never End And Other Fun Facts</i>	Laura Lyn DiSiena	2014	<i>Did you know that rainbows are full circles—so they never actually end? How about that light from the sun reaches Earth in around eight minutes? Or that all snowflakes have six sides?</i> Filled with tons of cool facts about weather and the environment, plus colorful, humorous illustrations by Pete Oswald, this book is sure to be a hit!
<i>Rainbows: Amazing sites of the Sky</i>	Martha Rustad	2018	One of the best things about a rainy day is the possibility of seeing a rainbow, but there's more to rainbows than meets the eye! Simple text introduces readers to the science behind rainbows. Including why rainbows occur and what they are made of.
<i>Sending Messages with Light and Sound</i>	Jennifer Boothroyd	2015	Young readers will learn how we send and receive messages using light and sound in this accessible, photo-filled book. Simple text explains different methods of sending messages and shows how light and sound make sending these messages possible. Vibrant photos bring basic science concepts to life and encourage kids to explore light and sound on their own.
<i>Sensing Light and Sound</i>	Jennifer Boothroyd	2015	Young readers will learn how we use our senses to see light and hear sound in this accessible, photo-filled book. Vibrant images bring basic science concepts to life and encourage kids to explore their own perceptions of light and sound.
<i>Sounds All Around: The Science of How Sound Works</i>	Susan Hughes	2021	From a cat's purr to a thunderstorm's clap, from a friend's voice to a school bell's clang, sounds can lull us, entice us or call us to action. But how does sound happen? How do we hear it? What makes some sounds loud and some soft? Some high pitched and some low pitched? How do humans and animals use sound to communicate? Which sounds happen naturally, and which are created for a specific purpose? This charming picture book explores all of these questions in child-friendly language,

			offering readers a gentle introduction to how sound works that will encourage them to stop and listen.
<i>Sound: Loud, Soft, High, and Low</i>	Natalie Myra	2016	Sound is created through vibrations that vary in pitch and volume. This creates sound-waves that you can hear. Includes experiments.
<i>Why it Works: Light and Dark</i>	Anna Claybourne	2008	How does Light bend? Why do we see shadows? What is a rainbow? Packed with fun experiments to show you how and why light and dark works! Learn about light, electricity, and gravity through practical activities and easy-to-follow explanations of the major elements of science. Using basic experiments and activities, children will learn about the world around them. Concise text and fantastic photographs provide a clear guide to scientific principles surrounding each subject.

Texts with Authors/Illustrators from Maine

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>If I Built a Car</i> <i>If I Built a House</i> <i>If I Built a School</i> <i>If I Built a Town</i>	Chris van Dusen	2007-2025	Follow young Jack as he puts his creativity to the test creating amazing inventions to help his community. The <i>If I Built</i> a series inspires readers to use their imaginations!

Wabanaki Culture

<i>Indigenous Ingenuity</i>	Deidre Havrelock & Edward Kay	2023	This engaging nonfiction book celebrates the ingenuity of Indigenous peoples across North America through accessible storytelling and hands-on STEM activities. Its blend of science, culture, and history makes it ideal for classrooms and families seeking inclusive, curiosity-driven learning experiences.
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<i>The Echo People</i>	S.D. Youngwolf	2025	Not Wabanaki but written by a citizen of the Tsalagiya Nvdagi Tribe. In the early morning hours, two young children go on a journey of discovery with their grandfather, a great chief. After offering prayers to Creator, Grandfather leads Aiyanna and Little Wolf separately to the river gorge to meet the Echo People. There, surrounded by the beauty of Mother Earth, the children connect with the Echo People in a way that reveals something about themselves and learn a valuable lesson that will guide them throughout their lives.
<i>The First Blade of Sweetgrass: A Wabanaki Story</i>	Suzanne Greenlaw and Gabriel Frey	2021	In this Own Voices Native American picture book story, a modern Wabanaki girl is excited to accompany her grandmother for the first time to harvest sweetgrass for basket making. Musquon must overcome her impatience while learning to distinguish sweetgrass from other salt marsh grasses, but slowly the spirit and peace of her surroundings speak to her, and she gathers sweetgrass as her ancestors have done for centuries, leaving the first blade she sees to grow for future generations. This sweet, authentic story from a Maliseet mother and her Passamaquoddy husband includes backmatter about traditional basket making and a Wabanaki glossary. The story can be connected to listening to the sounds of nature.