

Supplemental Texts

Unit 3: Connecting People, Connecting Places

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 <i>Our Community (Unit 1), Construction (Unit 3), Our Earth (Unit 4)</i>	First Grade Texts <i>Resources in Our Community</i>	Second Grade Texts <i>Connecting Places, Connecting People</i>
Unit 1: <i>Abiyo</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> Unit 3: <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> <i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</i> <i>Homes Around the World</i> <i>The World is Not a Rectangle</i> <i>The Night Worker</i> <i>Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building</i> <i>How a House is Built</i> <i>The Little Red Fort</i> <i>Roxaboxen</i> <i>Dirt</i> Unit 4: <i>From Seed to Plant</i> <i>The Gift of the Tree</i> <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i> <i>Beat a Friend to Trees</i>	Unit 1: <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> Unit 3: <i>Mirror</i> <i>Those Shoes</i> <i>Before We Eat: From Farm to Table</i> <i>How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? The Story of Food</i> <i>Quinto's Neighborhood</i> <i>On the Farm, At the Market</i> <i>Wen-mei and Her Clay Pot</i> <i>Consumers and Producers From Cocoa Bean to Chocolate</i> <i>From Sheep to Sweater</i> <i>Fresh Picked Poetry: A Day at the Farmers Market</i> <i>Me on the Map</i>	Unit 1: <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>Mr. Rosenwald</i> Unit 3: <i>Abuela's Weave</i> <i>Going Home, Coming Home</i> <i>Drum Dream Girl</i> <i>Fin M'Coul</i> <i>If You Give an Author a Pencil</i> <i>Seaside Dream</i> <i>Growing Up Pedro</i> <i>Soccer Star</i> <i>Mama and Papa Have a Store</i> <i>The Wakame Gatherers</i> <i>Janjak & Freda</i>

<i>Recycle</i> <i>Our Earth Making Less Trash</i> <i>Our Earth Saving Water</i> <i>Rainbow Weaver</i> <i>City Screen</i> <i>Caretakers of the Earth</i>	<i>Bippity Bop Barbershop</i> <i>Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers</i> <i>A Chair for My Mother</i>	
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Fictional Text Ideas

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>Anisa's International Day</i>	Reem Faruqi	2022	From the award-winning author of <i>Unsettled</i>, meet Anisa, the adorable Pakistani American heroine of this irresistible younger middle grade novel about a girl who introduces her class to the art of mehndi for International Day. Filled with fun black-and-white interior art, recipes, and activities in the back matter and perfect for fans of <i>Meet Yasmin</i>! Anisa is super-excited about International Day and can't wait to share her mother's samosas with her class. But when someone else has the exact same idea, Anisa is crushed. Going to her aunt's dholki party gives her an idea for the perfect activity instead—mehndi! There's only one problem: Anisa's best friend doesn't seem to like the idea. She doesn't even seem to like Anisa anymore. Will Anisa ever get to enjoy International Day? This text would make a good novel to read aloud.
<i>Dreamers</i>	Yuyi Morales	2018	<i>Dreamers</i> is a celebration of making your home with the things you always carry: your resilience, your dreams, your hopes and history. It's the story of finding your way in a new place, of navigating an unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it. In dark times, it's a promise that you can make better tomorrows.

<i>Home is In Between</i>	Mitali Perkins	2021	Shanti misses the warm monsoon rains in India. Now in America, she watches fall leaves fly past her feet. Still, her family’s apartment feels like a village: Mama cooking <i>luchi</i>, funny stories in Bangla, and Baba’s big laugh. But outside, everything is different – trick-or-treating, ballet class, and English books. Back and forth, Shanti trudges between her two worlds. She remembers her village and learns her new town. She watches Bollywood movies at home and Hollywood movies with her friends. She is Indian. She is also American. How should she define home?
<i>I am Every Good Thing</i>	Derrick Barn	2020	Through a series of lyrical “I am” statements, the narrator proclaims his worth, resilience, and joy, countering stereotypes that often obscure the innocence of Black childhood. The book offers messages of self-acceptance, perseverance, and pride, asserting that every child deserves respect, safety, and love. It serves both as a mirror for Black readers and a window for others to witness their peers’ full humanity.
<i>Islandborn</i>	Junot Díaz	2018	<i>Every kid in Lola's school was from somewhere else. Hers was a school of faraway places.</i> So when Lola's teacher asks the students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited. Except Lola. She can't remember The Island—she left when she was just a baby. But with the help of her family and friends, and their memories—joyous, fantastical, heartbreaking, and frightening—Lola's imagination takes her on an extraordinary journey back to The Island. As she draws closer to the heart of her family's story, Lola comes to understand the truth of her abuela's words: “Just because you don't remember a place doesn't mean it's not in you.”

<i>Mama Panya's Pancakes</i>	Mary and Rich Chamberlin	2005	The story follows Mama Panya and her son Adika as they go to market to buy ingredients for pancakes. Despite limited money, Adika invites many neighbors to share their meal. Mama Panya worries about not having enough food, but everyone brings something to contribute, turning the meal into a communal feast. The narrative highlights African village life and the universal value of generosity. Provides a good connect to <i>Seeds of Change</i> .
<i>My Papi Has a Motorcycle</i>	Isabel Quintero	2019	When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets purple-blue-gold behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there. With vivid illustrations and text bursting with heart, <i>My Papi Has a Motorcycle</i> is a young girl's love letter to her hardworking dad and to memories of home that we hold close in the midst of change.

<i>My Two Blankets</i>	Irena Kobald	2014	The book follows a girl named Cartwheel who moves to a foreign country where everything—language, sounds, and customs—feels strange. She wraps herself in an imaginary “old blanket” of memories for comfort until a new friend helps her weave a “new blanket” of belonging. The metaphor of two blankets captures the balance between preserving one’s heritage and embracing new connections.
<i>Same, Same But Different</i>	Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw	2024	An American and Indian boy are pen pals and learn that their lives are not so different in this award-winning picture book. Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different! Through an inviting point-of-view and colorful, vivid illustrations, this story shows how two boys living oceans apart can be the best of friends.

<i>Stone Soup</i>	Heather Forest	2005	Two hungry travelers arrive at a village expecting to find a household that will share a bit of food, as has been the custom along their journey. To their surprise, villager after villager refuses to share, each one closing the door with a bang.
	Jon Muth	2003	As they sit to rest beside a well, one of the travelers observes that if the townspeople have no food to share, they must be "in greater need than we are." With that, the travelers demonstrate their special recipe for a magical soup, using a stone as a starter. All they need is a carrot, which a young girl volunteers. Not to be outdone, another villager contributes a potato, and the soup grows as others bring corn, celery, and other vegetables and seasonings. In this cumulative retelling of an ancient and widely circulated legend, author Heather Forest shows us that when each person makes a small contribution, "the collective impact can be huge." Susan Gaber's paintings portray the optimism and timelessness of a story that celebrates teamwork and generosity. This story about community teaches readers the importance of sharing, generosity and vegetables! There are a number of versions of this tale from a variety of cultures—could be an opportunity for comparing versions of the same tale.
<i>Thank you, Omu!</i>	Oge Mora	2018	Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

<i>The Interpreter</i>	Olivia Abtahi	2025	Some kids have one job: to be a kid! Cecilia has two. When she isn't on the soccer field scoring goals, she's accompanying her parents to all kinds of grown-up places, like the DMV, the accountant's office, and the auto shop. She helps them translate from Spanish to English and from English to Spanish. It's an important job, and it can even be fun. It's also hard work.
<i>The Proudest Blue</i>	Ibtihaj Muhammad & S.K. Ali	2019	Faziah is excited — it's the first day of school and her older sister's first day of hijab. But not everyone sees the blue hijab as beautiful, and Faizah finds the strength to confront some hurtful, confusing words.
<i>Where Are You From?</i>	Yamile Saied Méndez	2019	The book follows a young girl who is repeatedly asked, "Where are you from?"—a question she finds difficult to answer. Seeking guidance, she turns to her grandfather, who responds with poetic reflections on their family's roots in nature, community, and heritage. The story celebrates identity, ancestry, and pride in one's origins while encouraging empathy and understanding across cultures.
<i>Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam</i>	Fawzia Gilani-Williams	2017	Two neighbors—one Jewish, one Muslim—have always been best friends. When they both fall on hard times, can they find a way to help each other? In Fawzia Gilani's retelling of this folktale—which has both Jewish and Arab origins—differences are not always causes for conflict and friendship can overcome any obstacle.

Nonfiction Text Ideas

Title	Author	Year	Summary
<i>A Place Called Home</i>	Kate Baker	2020	The book presents real-life examples of homes in varied settings—urban, rural, coastal, and nomadic. Through descriptive text and imagery, it emphasizes that “home” extends beyond physical shelter to include relationships, traditions, and community connections. Each chapter often highlights a specific child or family, making global differences relatable through individual experiences.
<i>A School Like Mine</i>	Dorling Kindersley	2006	The book presents first-person stories from children in more than 30 countries, organized by geographic region. Each profile highlights a typical school day, showing

			differences in class size, facilities, uniforms, and subjects. High-quality photographs accompany concise text, allowing young readers to visually explore classrooms from rural Africa to urban Asia.
<i>Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay</i>	Susan Hood	2016	Ada Ríos grew up in Cateura, a small town in Paraguay built on a landfill. She dreamed of playing the violin, but with little money for anything but the bare essentials, it was never an option...until a music teacher named Favio Chávez arrived. He wanted to give the children of Cateura something special, so he made them instruments out of materials found in the trash. It was a crazy idea, but one that would leave Ada—and her town—forever changed. Now, the Recycled Orchestra plays venues around the world, spreading their message of hope and innovation.
<u><i>My Name is Celia/Me llamo Celia</i></u>	Monica Brown	2004	This bilingual book allows young readers to enter Celia Cruz's life as she becomes a well-known singer in her homeland of Cuba, then moves to New York City and Miami where she and others create a new type of music called salsa. School Library Journal has named <i>My Name is Celia</i> “[a]n exuberant picture-book biography . . . a brilliant introduction to a significant woman and her music.”
<i>One Plastic Bag</i>	Miranda Paul	2015	For years, plastic bags were a cheap and convenient option for carrying goods in Njau, Gambia. However, when these bags broke or were no longer needed, they were carelessly discarded, leading to an unsightly accumulation of plastic waste alongside roads. The stagnant water in the bags provided a breeding ground for mosquitoes and diseases, while the burning of bags left behind a foul smell. The bags also strangled gardens, killed livestock, and polluted the environment. Isatou Ceesay decided to take action, and she began to collect the plastic bags and recycle them into something new. Her efforts not only helped to clean up the environment, but also provided income for women in her community who had been struggling to make ends meet.
<i>Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who</i>	Susan Hood	2018	<i>Shaking Things Up</i> introduces fourteen revolutionary young women—each paired with a noteworthy female artist—to the next generation of activists, trailblazers, and

<i>Changed the World</i>			rabble-rousers.
<i>The Bicycle: How an act of kindness changed a young refugee's life</i>	Patricia McCormick & Mevan Babakar	2024	For generations, Mevan and her family lived in their beloved Kurdistan. But when they are forced to flee by the Iraqi government, Mevan must leave everything behind. Her family travels from country to country in search of safety; with each stop, Mevan feels more and more alone. Until...a stranger's gift changes everything. Based on the true story of Mevan Babakar's own childhood, this is a moving reminder of how powerful just one act of kindness can be. Note: This text begins with a depiction of displacement which may be unsettling for some children. Teachers should determine if it is a good fit for their students.
<u>This is How We do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World</u>	Matt Lamothe	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. From Italy, Japan, Iran, and India to Peru, Uganda, and Russia, author Matt Lamonthe transports readers across the globe and back with this luminous and thoughtful picture book. Getting a glimpse into everyday routines across the culture map provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as mirrors reflecting our common experiences.

Texts with Authors/Illustrators from Maine

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Summary</i>
<i>Africa Is Not a Country</i>	Margy Burns Knight	2002	From the tiny island nations of Comoros, Seychelles, and São Tomé and Príncipe, to its largest country, Africa is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres. Unlike any other continent, it is divided into two almost equal lengths by the equator, and it is nearly as wide as it is long. Enter into the daily life of children in the many countries of

			modern Africa. Countering stereotypes, Africa Is Not a Country celebrates the extraordinary diversity of this vibrant continent as experienced by children at home, at school, at work, and at play.
<i>Miss Rumphius</i>	Barbara Cooney	1985	Barbara Cooney's 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. Miss Rumphius received the American Book Award in the year of publication.
<i>The Fish House Door</i>	Robert Baldwin	2010	Shawn comes from a long line of island lobstermen. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather have all hauled traps, baited pockets, painted buoys, and cleaned their brushes on the door of the same fish house for decades. To Shawn, it's just a weathered old piece of wood with broken hinges. But when an art dealer comes to visit, he gives Shawn a new perspective on the fish house door, and a fresh look at the people and traditions that have shaped his past and will chart his future. May be easier to locate on YouTube as a video .

Wabanaki Culture

<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Summary</i>
<i>Little People of the Dawn</i>	Minquansis Sapiel (Author), Minsoss Sapiel-Bobadilla (Illustrator)	2023	Little People of the Dawn is a beautiful Passamaquoddy story about a girl, Lili, who comes upon the Little People while on a visit to Second Island. The Little People were once friends with the Passamaquoddy, but as the people began forgetting their traditional ways, the Little People retreated to the caves, and the Passamaquoddy rarely encountered them. Lili sets out to meet them, and along the way must learn her tribal language and ways if she is to communicate with them. The story reminds us of the importance of knowing our ways and caring for the earth.

Wabanaki lessons connected to big ideas in Unit 3:

Wabanaki Leaders Slide Show