

## Grade 3: Series Book Clubs


### **Introduction to the Unit:**

*When selecting texts to support this unit, we utilized a variety of resources, including recommended titles in the Units of Study eDocs, text exemplars from Appendix B of the CCSS, as well as suggestions from librarians and teachers and those found on the Internet. We considered several factors when looking at the books including text complexity and student interest. From our research, we have compiled a suggested list of mentor texts for read-alouds, short texts for close reading, and texts at a variety of levels to be used in book clubs.*

*In the eDoc, Calkins states that “one major concern about the selection of your read-aloud is length- you won’t really be showing what it means to read in a series until you are reading the second book in the series, so if these are long books, the time spent reading book one won’t show children anything about series reading.” Here are some suggestions to help you make the most of your time:*

- *Read one book from a series prior to the start of this unit (during the Character unit, for example.)*
- *Read a text that contains many mini-stories. For example, we suggest Pippi Longstocking as a possible mentor text, since each chapter is its own story and will provide students with the opportunity to follow the character quickly through a series of events (this is similar to what students have experienced in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with The Stories Julian Tells.)*
- *Choose to follow reoccurring characters through some of the Patricia Polacco picture books. We have listed some titles that schools already have in their Book Rooms, as well as some newer titles.*


*We also created a chart highlighting some new titles for book club books.*

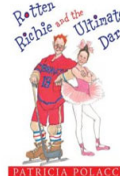
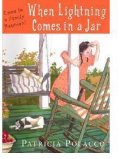
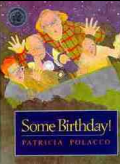

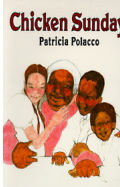
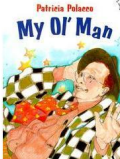
<i>Mentor Texts</i>					
Level	Lexile	Title	Author	Type	Photo
0	870	<p><u><a href="#">Pippi Longstocking</a></u>                      Tommy and Annika have always wished someone would come to live in the ramshackle house next door, and one day, someone does: Pippi Longstocking, an irrepressible nine-year-old girl with a unique way of doing things. Soon the three are inseparable friends. With a horse on the porch, a monkey on her shoulder, and no parents to tell her when to go to bed, Pippi makes everything into an adventure, whether she's climbing inside a hollow tree or taking her friends "thing-finding" around the village. When policemen come to take Pippi away to a children's home, she convinces them that she's better off where she is. But after one day of school, she decides that academic matters such as "pluttification tables" aren't for her, either. So Pippi becomes the star of the circus and a rescuer of small children, and in her own happy home, she scrubs the floor with her feet, dances with the burglars who come to rob her, and entertains her favorite neighbors. No matter how maddening her high jinks might be to the adults around her, Pippi proves herself to be the kindest and most generous of friends.</p> <p><b>Books in the Series:</b>  <u><a href="#">Pippi Goes Abroad</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Pippi in the South Seas</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Pippi on the Run</a></u> (Picture Book)  <u><a href="#">Pippi Longstocking in the Park</a></u> (Picture Book)</p> <p><b>Connection to the Teaching Points:</b>                      *This book will address all of the essential focus teaching points for the Series Book Club unit, but will be particularly supportive of <i>noticing patterns in a character's actions or feelings, noticing how characters react in the face of trouble, and developing theories about the desires and motivations of characters.</i></p>	Astrid Lundgren	Chapter	


***Books about Patricia and her Family***

**Connection to the Teaching Points:**

\*These books will address all of the essential focus teaching points for the Series Book Club unit, but will be particularly supportive of *envisioning secondary characters, as well as main characters, developing ideas about the relationships between characters, and developing rich theories about characters, moving from single ideas to complex ideas.*

M	480	<p><u><a href="#">My Rotten Red-Headed Older Brother</a></u>                      There's nothing worse than a rotten red-headed older brother! Patricia's brother Richard can run the fastest, climb the highest, spit the farthest, and still smile his extra-rotten, greeny-toothed, weasel-eyed grin. But when little Patricia wishes on a shooting star that she could do something-anything-to show him up, she finds out just what wishes-and rotten redheaded older brothers-can really do. A lively and warmhearted tale of comic one-upsmanship and brotherly love.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
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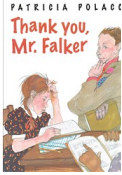
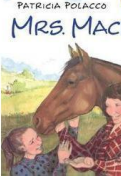
M	540	<p><u>Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare</u></p> <p>It seems like Richie's entire goal in life is to make Trisha's impossible, especially when he takes to teasing her about her beloved ballet class. Trisha knows how much work it takes to be good at ballet—much more than the stupid hockey Richie plays! So she challenges Richie to perform in her ballet recital, and Richie agrees, under one condition: Trisha has to join his hockey team for the big game!</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
M	540	<p><u>When Lightening Comes in a Jar</u></p> <p>Trisha remembers the food and fun of her childhood family reunions and recalls the magical time when Gramma called up the fireflies from the grass. She later carries on the tradition at her house with the current generation of children. *Multiple copies available for Book Clubs.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
M	590	<p><u>Some Birthday!</u></p> <p>On one girl's birthday, Dad takes her and her brother to see the Monster at Clay Pit Bottom.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
M	630	<p><u>The Trees of the Dancing Goats</u></p> <p>Trisha loves the eight days of Hanukkah, when her mother stays home from work, her Babushka makes delicious potato "latkes," and her Grampa carves wonderful animals out of wood as gifts for Trisha and her brother. In the middle of her family's preparation for the festival of lights, Trisha visits her closest neighbors, expecting to find them decorating their house for Christmas. Instead they are all bedridden with scarlet fever. Trisha's family is one of the few who has been spared from the epidemic. It is difficult for them to enjoy their Hanukkah feast when they know that their neighbors won't be able to celebrate their holiday. Then Grampa has an inspiration: they will cut down trees, decorate them, and secretly deliver them to the neighbors, "But what can we decorate them with?" Babushka asks. Although it is a sacrifice, Trisha realizes that Grampa's carved animals are the perfect answer. Soon her living room is filled with trees -- but that is only the first miracle of many during an incredible holiday season. Based on a long cherished childhood memory, this story celebrates the miracle of true friendship.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
N	650	<p><u>Chicken Sunday</u></p> <p>With the rich folk-art style and lively text for which she has become well known, Patricia Polacco has created an outstanding family story of trust, love, and acceptance. After her own grandmother dies, a young Russian-American girl is initiated into her neighbor's family. She and her "brothers" devise a plan to buy "grandmother" an Easter bonnet. They learn a lesson of respect and tolerance along the way. *Multiple Copies are available for Book Clubs.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
N	640	<p><u>My Ol' Man</u></p> <p>Patricia's father is always telling stories, and the best is the one about the magic rock. But does the rock have enough magic to help when he loses his job?</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	

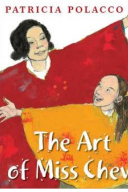

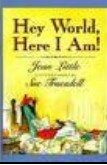

N/A	N/A	<p><b><u>Gifts of the Heart</u></b>                  Beloved author-illustrator Patricia Polacco's holiday story is a wonderful ode to the magic of family, Christmas, and giving the right kind of gifts—gifts filled with love.</p> <p>Richie and Trisha want to buy Christmas gifts for their family, but they don't have enough money. Enter Kay Lamity, a new housekeeper . . . but is that all she is? She comes into their lives like a whirlwind, brimming with positive energy and a can-do attitude. Kay not only straightens them out when it comes to whether or not Santa Claus is real, she teaches them something about gifts: the just-good-enough kind that come from the pocketbook and the unforgettable kind that come from the heart. Because of Kay, Trisha and Richie—and the family—have a Christmas morning they will never forget.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
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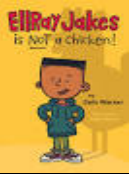
**Books about Patricia and Inspirational Teachers**

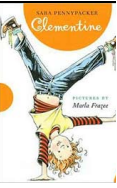
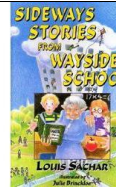
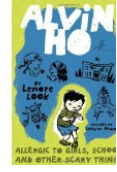
**Connection to the Teaching Points:**




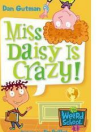


\*This book will address all of the essential focus teaching points for the Series Book Club unit, but will be particularly supportive of *noticing patterns in a character's actions or feelings, developing ideas about the relationships between characters, and focusing in on intense moments in books.*

M	650	<p><b><u>Thank You, Mr. Falker</u></b>                  In this autobiographical story, Little Trisha, overjoyed at the thought of learning how to read, struggles when she finds that all the letters and numbers get jumbled up. Her classmates make matters worse by calling her a dummy. Finally, in fifth grade, she is lucky enough to have a teacher who recognizes Trisha's incredible artistic ability, understands her problem, and takes the time to lead her to the magic of reading. Although dyslexia is never mentioned in the book, this story will provide great reassurance to children who struggle to overcome learning disabilities.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
P	610	<p><b><u>Mrs. Mack</u></b>                  Not only horse enthusiasts will find themselves misty-eyed at this heartfelt autobiographical story of a girl, her teacher, and one copper-colored horse. When ten-year-old horse lover Pat learns that her father has decided it is time for her to learn to ride, it is the beginning of an unforgettable experience. At first, when Pat arrives at the stables in the poor neighborhood of Dogpatch, she is disappointed and scared of the tough kids that live there. Upon the arrival of her charismatic riding teacher, Mrs. Mack, Pat is curious but intimidated. She doesn't feel like she belongs in Dogpatch, and is especially frightened of a mean-looking old man, Hap, who appears to be watching her every move. In time, Pat learns to ride, and falls in love with a beautiful buckskin mare named Penny. When Mrs. Mack finally feels Pat is ready to ride Penny, Pat courageously overcomes all of her fears and is able to canter with the rest of the Dogpatch kids. In one tense scene, Penny falls seriously ill, and it is none other than Hap who helps Pat rescue the mare in a surprising ending.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
P	660	<p><b><u>The Junkyard Wonders</u></b>                  In California, Trisha was put in a special education class — but now that she can read, she can't wait for a fresh start at a new school in Michigan. But when she gets her class assignment, she's heartbroken to find out that her new class is called the junkyard (even her teacher refers to it that way). At first, Trisha wants to quit, but then with the help of an unforgettable teacher and amazing friendships with the other kids in her "tribe," she comes to realize that the junkyard is a place where every kid can become something truly special.                  This heartwarming true story from the author's childhood recounts a magical year in Mrs. Peterson's class. The last page is especially uplifting and shows what these kids who were thought to be outcasts</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	


		grew up to accomplish in life.			
N/A	630	<p><b><u>The Art of Miss Chew</u></b>                      After spending the summer with her artist grandmother, Trisha knows she wants to be an artist, too. She's thrilled when her sketches get her into Miss Chew's special art class at the high school. A substitute teacher tells her she's wasting time on art when she should be studying - but fortunately, this is one battle that Miss Chew and Trisha are up for!</p> <p>This true story shows just how important a teacher can be in a child's life - and celebrates the power of art itself.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
N/A	N/A	<p><b><u>Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece</u></b>                      In this inspiring true story, beloved artist Patricia Polacco conquers her fear of public speaking, allowing her to discover her remarkable voice. A wonderful companion to <i>Thank You, Mr. Falker</i> and <i>The Art of Miss Chew</i>, it celebrates the lifelong impact of a great teacher.</p> <p>Speaking in front of an audience terrifies Trisha. Ending up in Mr. Wayne's drama class is the last thing she wants! But Mr. Wayne gives her a backstage role painting scenery for the winter play. As she paints, she listens to the cast rehearse, memorizing their lines without even realizing it. Then, days before opening night, the lead actress suddenly moves away, and Trisha is the only other person who knows her part. Will the play have to be canceled? It won't be an easy road—when Trisha tries to recite the lines in front of the cast, nothing comes out! But Mr. Wayne won't let her give up, and with his coaching, Trisha is able to become one of his true masterpieces.</p>	Patricia Polacco	Picture	
<b>Short Texts</b>					
S	570	<p><b><u>Hey World, Here I Am!</u></b>                      Kate Bloomfield is back! And she's got a lot to say -- about school and friends and parents, about cartwheels (she can't do them), about parsnips (she won't eat them), about being alone and being herself, about life and love...even about Dave Nelson, who doesn't know she's alive. Outspoken, funny, sometimes confused but always observant, Kate is writing it all down.</p>	Jean Little	Chapter	
<b>Book Club Texts</b>					
M	700	<p><b><u>The Storm: Lighthouse Family Book #1</u></b>                      Life with only the sea can be lonely. Just ask Pandora and Seabold. They've lived most of their lives with the sea — Pandora in a lighthouse and Seabold on a boat — and they're each quite used to being alone. Or they were.</p> <p>But one day, the sea did something extraordinary: It brought Pandora and Seabold together! And even better, the sea gave them the ingredients for an adventure that neither of them had considered before; an adventure called "family."</p> <p><b>Books in the Series:</b>  <a href="#"><u>The Whale</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>The Turtle</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>The Eagle</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>The Octopus</u></a></p>	Cynthia Rylant	Chapter	

N	720	<p><b><u>Amber Brown is Not a Crayon</u></b>          Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They sit next to each other in school, help each other with fractions and spelling, and always stick up for one another. But when Justin finds out that he is moving away, everything begins to change.</p> <p><b>Books in the Series:</b>  <u>You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown</u>  <u>Amber Brown Goes Fourth</u>  <u>Amber Brown Wants Extra Credit</u>  <u>Forever Amber Brown</u>  <u>Amber Brown Sees Red</u>  <u>Amber Brown is Feeling Blue</u>  <u>I, Amber Brown</u>  <u>Amber Brown is Green with Envy</u></p>	Paula Danziger	Chapter	
O	560	<p><b><u>Herbie Jones</u></b>          Third grade isn't looking too good for Herbie Jones. Not only is he stuck being in Apples, the lowest reading group in class, but he has to get a birthday present for annoying Annabelle and be good for the entire field trip to the museum! How is Herbie ever going to make it through the year?</p>	Suzy Kline	Chapter	
O	750	<p><b><u>EllRay Jakes Is Not a Chicken!</u></b>          Eight-year-old EllRay Jakes is sick of getting picked on. But every time he tries to defend himself against class bully Jared Matthews, EllRay is the one who winds up in trouble. This humorous and true-to-life story kicks off the EllRay Jakes series.</p>	Sally Warner	Chapter	
O	860	<p><b><u>Ramona Quimby, Age 8</u></b>          With Mr. Quimby going to college and Mrs. Quimby going to work, it's a good thing Ramona is big enough to ride the bus to her new school all by herself. Unfortunately, after school she has to stay with Grandmother Kemp until her moody big sister Beezus comes to pick her up. It's a good thing Ramona is so mature these days: she is doing her best to help Beezus make dinner and to be nice to pesky little Willa Jean after school. She can't help it if Danny — better known as Yard Ape — insists on making her school life difficult. Soon Ramona is living up to her reputation, accidentally squashing a raw egg into her hair at the cafeteria and throwing up in her classroom. Will life ever get any easier?</p> <p><b>Books in the Series:</b>  <u>Beezus and Ramona</u>          * This is the only book in the series written from older sister Beezus' point of view. In it, Beezus is struggling with her feelings for her annoying younger sister. This would be a good for discussing perspective and point of view.  <u>Ramona the Pest</u>  <u>Ramona the Brave</u>  <u>Ramona and Her Father</u>  <u>Ramona and Her Mother</u></p>	Beverly Cleary	Chapter	

		<p><u>Ramona Forever</u> <u>Ramona's World</u></p>			
O	790	<p><u>Clementine</u> In this first book of the series, Clementine tries to help out her friend Margaret but ends up in a lot of trouble for it. Things get worse each day of the week, until finally she's worried that Margaret is right: Clementine's parents might consider her "the hard one" in the family. They're up to something mysterious; are they thinking they'd be better off if they only had her little vegetable-named brother, "the easy one?"</p> <p><b>Books in the Series:</b> <u>The Talented Clementine</u> <u>Clementine's Letter</u> <u>Clementine: Friend of the Week</u> <u>The Family Meeting</u> <u>Clementine and the Spring Trip</u> (*Field Trip is to Plimoth Plantation!)</p>	Sarah Pennypacker	Chapter	
P	460	<p><u>Sideways Stories from Wayside School</u> Wayside School was supposed to be built with 30 classrooms all next to each other in a row. Instead, the classrooms were stacked one on top of the other — 30 stories tall! Here are some hilarious and fun stories about the school, the teachers, and the students. You'll meet Mrs. Gorf, the meanest teacher of all, terrible Todd, who always gets sent home early, and John who can read only upside down — along with all the other kids in the crazy mixed-up school that came out sideways. But you'll never guess the truth about Sammy, the new kid...or what's in store for Wayside School on Halloween!</p> <p>*Would be great to compare with <u>My Weird School</u> series.</p>	Louis Sachar	Chapter	
Q	600	<p><u>Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things</u> Alvin Ho is afraid of nearly everything: the dark, substitute teachers, and girls, to name just a few. But if there is one thing Alvin is absolutely terrified of, it is speaking in school. He has quite a voice at home; in fact Alvin jumps around with his brother and sister and pretends to be Firecracker Man, an explosion-loving superhero who's as noisy as a Chinese New Year. But when it comes time to say anything in school, Alvin loses his voice. Alvin doesn't know why he's so afraid; after all he comes from a long line of farmer warriors from China who didn't have a scaredy bone in their bodies. His father is fearless, and he is also a great gentleman. Alvin does his best as a gentleman-in-training so he can grow up to be just like him, but it's not easy. He must remember not to thump his little sister Anibelly when she digs holes in the yard, or pester his super-smart older brother Calvin on the secret rules for making friends. He must bravely face down the terrors of piano lessons, show-and-tell, and girl desk buddies! With a little help from his family and the rules of gentlemanly conduct, Alvin faces his fears, makes new friends, and finds his voice. The expressive spot illustrations throughout evoke the tenderness at the heart of this story.</p>	Lenore Look	Chapter	

		<b><i>Additional New Titles</i></b>			
N/A	N/A	<p><b><u>The Quirks</u></b>                      Molly and her family have moved around for years. Every time they think they've found a home, one of the Quirks slips up and sends them packing -- because the Quirk family is a bit, well, quirky. Each family member has one magical power that makes them unique and highly unusual.</p>	Erin Soderberg	Chapter	
M	410	<p><b><u>Sophie the Awesome</u></b>                      Meet Sophie, a little girl with a big goal: to find the perfect title for herself. Look out --- here's Sophie the Awesome! Sophie Miller's life is boring. Average. Blah. She's not the oldest or the youngest, the tallest or the shortest. She's not even the only Sophie in her third-grade class! Sophie knows she's special. And she's come up with the perfect name to show it: Sophie the Awesome! But living up to her new name won't be easy --- especially if super-annoying Toby Myers has anything to say about it. Can Sophie prove her awesomeness . . . and prove everyone wrong?</p> <p>*Would be great to compare with <u>Judy Moody</u>.</p>	Lara Bergen	Chapter	
N/A	690	<p><b><u>Stella Batts</u></b>                      Stella decides to change her name after a boy from her class keeps calling her "Smella." How hard can it be to pick a new name? It's not as easy as it sounds.</p>	Courtney Scheinmel	Chapter	
0	700	<p><b><u>Miss Daisy is Crazy (My Weird School Series)</u></b>                      Meet a teacher who eats bonbons, a principal who kisses pigs, a librarian who thinks she's George Washington, and an art teacher who dresses up in potholders!</p>	Dan Gutman	Chapter	
N/A	420	<p><b><u>Magic Bone</u></b>                      Sent to the backyard for breaking a tick-tock-ticking toy, Sparky (an adorable but clumsy sheepdog puppy) immediately begins his favorite activity: diggety-dig-digging. Little does he know that he's about to dig up the most amazing toy ever--a magic bone! With one bite into that sparkling bone, Sparky is magically transported to London, where he makes new friends, sees the sights, and gets into a bit of trouble. Join Sparky on his adventure to see how he escapes and makes it back home!</p>	Nancy Krulik	Chapter	
N/A	550	<p><b><u>Super Burp (George Brown, Class Clown series)</u></b>                      When fourth-grader George starts at a new school, he vows to become a model student instead of the class clown he has always been. Just as his plan is going well, he is overtaken by a magic burp that turns him back into a mischief-maker.</p> <p>*Would be great to compare with <u>Katie Kazoo</u>, <u>Switcheroo</u>.</p>	Nancy Krulik	Chapter	



N/A	N/A	<p><b><u>Bookmarks are People Too!</u> (Here's Hank series)</b></p> <p>In the first book in this new series, Hank's class is putting on a play, and Hank wants the lead part: Aqua Fly. But he freezes in his audition and can only buzz like a fly. His teacher creates a special part for Hank, a silent bookmark. This may seem like an insignificant role, but when his enemy, Nick McKelty, freezes during the performance, it's up to Hank to save the play!</p> <p>*Would be great to compare with Hank Zipzer series.</p>	Henry Winkler	Chapter	
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