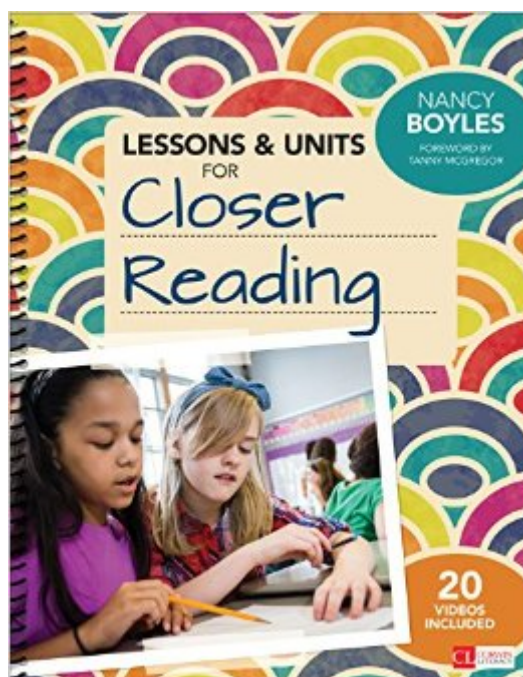


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# Lessons And Units For Closer Reading, Grades 3-6: Ready-to-Go Resources And Planning Tools Galore



## Synopsis

Every teacher who is struggling to make close reading a cohesive and coherent part of the curriculum, take notice: relief is in sight, thanks to Nancy Boyle's *Lessons and Units for Closer Reading*. Here, Nancy redefines what it means to publish on demand with a resource that answers your most urgent questions around how to implement close reading within the literacy block. What's more, she delivers all the goods: eight three-week units on close reading to immediately drop in to the curriculum and achieve that so-essential connectedness and coherence. Want a year-long curriculum? You've got it. There are 32 lessons in all, based on readily available complex picture books and organized by eight learning pathways for approaching important themes in literature and information. You can get started right away, with the help of: Short nonfiction articles to kick off each unit and get kids' minds percolating Assessment tasks, rubrics, planning templates, booklists, and more to make close reading instruction easy, efficient, and effective Links to 20+ video segments showing close reading and follow-up lessons in action Page-by-page text-dependent questions for every picture book Student work providing exemplars for writing about reading 10 Planning Steps for developing new units of study Nancy Boyle's *Closer Reading* expertly delivered answers to the why and how of close reading. Now, with this phenomenal sequel, you're treated to her playbook. This is the one that will sit in your lap while you teach, each and every day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A fantastic book. It takes teachers every step of the way through using picture books to teach reading in the midst of theme-based units. The nonfiction books the author has chosen are rich enough to merit the close reading and re-reading, and the QR code access to videos of her teaching and debriefing the lessons with colleagues are so instructive. Lots of emphasis on the small group work that is necessary for students to fold in the behaviors of close, attentive reading on their own.

Amazing resource! Nancy has eloquently merged rigorous instruction, close reading, and text complexity into picture books. She calls our attention to the importance of the author's words as well as the illustrators perspective. Using picture books as mentor texts allows for the scaffolding of instruction and for teachers to tap into all of the reading standards seamlessly. I love this practical approach to teaching. It engages students and makes them yearn for more. I've tried out the launching lessons as well as the follow up to close reading. This is a way to truly dig deeper to gain understanding and comprehension. A must have- especially as a reading coach!

In the sequel to Closer Reading, Lessons and Units for Closer Reading; Ready-to-Go Resources and Planning Tools Galore, Nancy Boyles delves students and teachers into the process of creating meaning through close reading in the context of a unit of study. The featured learning pathway units are thorough and can be easily implemented. Nancy expertly demonstrates and guides you in how to study any topic, concept, genre, theme, or current issue. She takes you through the methodical design process by providing planning and teaching guides and reflection questions that can be applied to any unit of study. Some highlights include introducing inquiry questions, selecting anchor texts, determining focus standards, and analyzing student learning. In each unit, Nancy goes beyond close reading to show you how to hook the learner with thought provoking questions and discussion points. She challenges students as they apply critical thinking strategies and gain essential understandings. She keeps them engaged with innovative teaching techniques and arrangements in which students create meaning independently and in small groups. The best bonus is it comes with tools offered both in the book and online such as planning templates, follow-up tasks, charts, and videos!

I highly recommend this book to any educator who is trying to master the art of teaching the Common Core State Standards. Nancy's style of writing is easy to read and the information

presented is ready for immediate classroom implementation. At the beginning of the book, there are 10 easy-to-follow steps for creating your own units of study. There are also eight ready-made, user-friendly units with accompanying close reading lessons, assessments, and rubrics! The learning pathways really promote transfer and the inquiry questions are creative and motivating. As a District Language Arts Coordinator, this book has quickly become my go-to resource when it comes to teaching and curriculum writing!

This book makes me look closer at how I am teaching reading. It is a very practical and useful resource to have. I can easily pull this out and find something to address anything I am considering for a student or group of students. This is one that I have already placed many post-it notes in to refer back to often. This one stays on my desk - not on the shelf.

I love Nancy Boyles' first book - Closer Reading: Grades 3-6 Better Prep, Smarter Lessons. This book is great too because she has lessons plans for 8 units that you can use and adapt based on her framework for teaching closer reading. With this book, you can also access a companion website where you can watch videos of her teaching the different close reading lessons, and then debriefing those lessons with a group of teachers. While I learned a lot from her first book, the videos really helped me see her framework come to life and I know I will be doing some lessons differently this upcoming school year. Highly recommended.

On the dedication page of her latest book, Lessons and Units for Closer Reading, Nancy Boyles admits to her supportive husband, Ron, that she "flunked retirement". Thank goodness! Grades 3-6 teachers are the fortunate beneficiaries of Nancy's latest (and post retirement) gem. Nancy's goal of providing the right kind of help to teachers in creating units and planning close reading lessons has definitely been achieved with this invaluable resource. Not only does this book take one sequentially through the ten-step planning process, but via the QR access code reader, allows us into 20 of Nancy's planning meetings and classroom lessons! Nancy pushes us to think outside the box, develop coherence, align our thinking to the standards, and make the learning real and sequential for our students. The thoughtful and strategic integration of picture books to elevate students' thinking, make connections between texts and their themes while incorporating the Common Core standards is nothing short of masterful. And the jewel in the crown--32 actual lessons using exemplary (and readily available) picture books! Never one to shamelessly self-promote, Nancy stands humbly by her latest publication; the rest of us are gesticulating wildly to colleagues--buy this

book! Another Boyles must-have resource.--Barbara Mechler, retired (but still working!) assistant superintendent, elementary principal, literacy consultant, and classroom teacher

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