

Units of Study for Teaching Reading  
A Workshop Curriculum, Middle School Grades

FAQ Video Transcripts

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***Question: Why are the middle school units sold separately rather than in grade-level sets?***

**Katy Wischow:**

The units are written without one specific grade level on them for a reason, because every middle school is different. Every group of kids is different, and we want you to be able to make the choices that are going to be best for your school. So when you're thinking about planning and getting started with these units, you'll want to think about planning in two ways. First, you'll want to think about the big picture planning. What units are you going to teach in which grades at which time of year? First of all, it's helpful to know that on the Heinemann website and in the catalog there is a suggested sequence of how this could go. So that would be a starting place, for sure. But, of course, schools have different needs, their kids have different interests, and there are different traditions in every school. So you'll want to sit down with your school and be able to make a decision. Okay, we're going to put this unit in this grade, this unit in this grade. That said, it's also helpful to know that some of the units definitely feel more foundational for middle school than others. So *A Deep Study of Character* makes a great starting unit in sixth grade, because it lays out a lot of work that will be followed up on in other units later to come. That doesn't mean it won't work in other grades, but that's something to know and that's where looking at the Heinemann recommended sequence will really help give you some guidance on that. So that's the first thing, you'll want to make a clear scope and sequence for your school based on your kids' needs, their interests, your teachers' interests, and what makes sense with the units that you have. The second big planning consideration is not the big picture, but then you also want to think about the day-to-day. How do you fit these units in, how do you make them work?