How do you support upper-grade and middle school readers if they are new to the norms and culture of reading workshop, particularly if they may also have missed some foundational instruction in reading fiction and nonfiction? How do you do this in a way that builds a strong reading community and strong habits and routines? How do you approach all this if you are new to the teaching of reading workshop? The Up the Ladder Reading units offer a very good place to start.

The Up the Ladder Reading units (one unit for reading fiction and one for reading nonfiction):

- begin with the clear expectation that students are in charge of their own reading lives;
- stress agency and independence across sessions;
- teach students to recognize and select a just-right book, to notice and flag parts of the text while reading, and to engage in conversations around the texts they are reading;
- help students build essential skills such as fluency, envisioning, prediction, making deeper inferences, and finding main ideas.

“Nothing matters more than the mission of giving all young people access to the beautiful, important work that happens in reading and writing workshops.”

—Lucy Calkins

For more information, visit UnitsofStudy.com/UptheLadder