

Units of Study for Teaching Reading DVDs

A transcript of remarks by Lucy Calkins Founding Director, Teachers College Reading & Writing Project

If I had to tell you my very favorite part of the entire series, it may be the videotapes themselves. Because I think that really seeing powerful reading workshops can be transformative. I can't tell you how often I've shared videotapes at reading workshops and been just flooded by people afterwards who come up and say, "Please, can I have a copy of that video? I just have to show that to my kids to show them what's possible." Or, "I have to show that to my board of education, I have to show that to my superintendent."

This collection of videos, and it's an unbelievable collection, will show you what it's like to give a minilesson, to confer, to work with small groups, to read aloud and lead your class in accountable talk, and you'll see all of these things in a variety of classrooms. We've videotaped in PS180, which is a classroom in Harlem. We videotaped in PS 28, which is a classroom in the Bronx, filled with ELLs. We've videotaped in some of our more middle class classrooms and some of our more upper-middle class classrooms. You'll see from this video a sense of the reading workshop as it lives and breathes in a whole variety of different school environments. That's tremendously exciting.

Of course the best thing about the videos is that you'll see what this is like when it's actually living in the lives of the kids. You'll see this rambunctious, idiosyncratic, spunky, fun presence of kids and what that does to all of our methods of teaching.