

Dear Readers,

I want to welcome you to this book and to this series. The **Workshop Help Desk** series is designed for teachers who believe in workshop teaching and who have already rolled up their sleeves enough to have encountered the predictable challenges. If you've struggled to get around quickly enough to help all your writers, if you've wondered how to tweak your teaching to make it more effective and lasting, if you've needed to adapt your teaching for English learners, if you've had difficulty teaching grammar or nonfiction writing or test prep... if you've faced these and other specific, pressing challenges, then this series is for you.

In our previously published **Units of Study** series, we provide a comprehensive elementary writing curriculum. We map out a course of study, describe minilessons, conferences, and small-group strategy sessions, and detail the management systems that foster a rigorous and responsive writing workshop. The **Workshop Help Desk** series takes a different approach. In this series, we focus on particular urgent topics that have caused the teachers with whom we work to call "help!" Each book in this series addresses a topic or concern that may be of special interest to you.

Leading rigorous, smooth reading and writing workshops is no easy task. Because my colleagues and I are working shoulder-to-shoulder with teachers in hundreds of schools dotting the country (and the world), we have already encountered many of the challenges you face. Particular members of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project staff have developed special expertise in each of these areas. For example, one person has focused on supporting struggling writers, another on helping English language learners, yet another on content-area reading. In fact, each of the sixty people who staff the TCRWP has developed specialized expertise in workshop teaching. These individuals have been resident experts for those of us on the staff of the project. Now this series allows these individuals to become resident experts for you as well.

We hope these books answer some of your calls!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucy Calkins', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lucy Calkins
Founding Director, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project
Columbia University