



Subject:

Integrated Literature & Writing

Grade:

2nd

Guide Level:

Earlybird

Welcome to Blackbird & Company’s English Language Arts program!

Earlybird Literature & Writing Discovery Guides are the CORE of our 2nd grade language arts curriculum and are designed to gently support students as they increase competency in independent reading and writing over time. Because reading and writing skills are gained at individual rates, student ability will vary greatly during the elementary stages of learning. Our Earlybird products have been developed to accommodate a variety of levels and teaching approaches in order to support you and the student throughout this process. This program, along with a frequently refreshed book basket, will spark your student’s interest in reading, and develop their ability to communicate their observations and ideas with others in writing.

Over the course of this year, your student will increase competency in reading and develop their voice and writing skills while enjoying 20 exceptional picture books representing a broad range of story genres. As your student explores traits of characters, vocabulary, and details of plot through comprehension and discussion, your student will grow in their ability to catalog and discuss their observations and bring shape to, and communicate their unique ideas in writing. Each Discovery Guide will conclude with the creation of a culminating project inspired by the stories included in the unit.

This planning Schedule is provided to help YOU as you plan and prepare to mentor your student on this journey of growth and discovery.

Are you ready? Let’s go!

The following guidelines assume you are planning for the start of a typical school year beginning the last week of August and ending the first week of June. This equals about 40 calendar weeks, and allows for 175-180 days of instruction when accounting for breaks and holidays. If you are starting mid-year, or are following a different schedule, simply adjust the dates as needed.

Earlybird Literature & Writing – Planning

June – August (Overall subject preparation)

- ➔ Do a thorough reading of the *Introduction* and *For The Teacher* pages i-v in the front of the *Earlybird Literature Discovery Guides* included in your curriculum package to prepare yourself to successfully guide your student through the Literature materials.
- ➔ Read your student’s first five literature books, looking through the Literature Discovery Guide to understand all the elements of each section’s assignments and how the pieces fit together.

Earlybird Literature & Writing – Mapping

July – August (Scheduling and preparation for individual literature titles)

Things to consider as you plan:

- ➔ Literature will require 20-35 minutes per day, 5 days per week, or 60-90 minutes per day, 2 days per week. You decide which schedule will best suit your learner and your daily needs.
- ➔ Guide corrections need to be done weekly (daily if possible) to insure that your student receives all input, corrections, and encouragement needed to be successful.
- ➔ Know yourself! Flexibility is critical. Look at your calendar before mapping and block out any planned holidays and vacations for the entire school year.
- ➔ Map out your intended *Earlybird Literature & Writing* schedule on your academic calendar in pencil, leaving room for possible adjustments along the way. Completion of 4 Units is recommended during the school year. Learning when to hold still to work on mastery before charging forward when you bump into struggles or “learning log jams” is a skill that you WILL develop as you go. What your student needs to know is that each day there is important work to accomplish, and that you will be there to help them move forward every step of the journey. These units can stretch out into the summer to keep the reading and writing going, taking more breaks during the school year if necessary or advantageous for your student.



SAMPLE MAPPING GUIDE

Now you have decisions to make about holidays, activities, and interruptions in scheduling.
Plan carefully to avoid overload or a lapse in student recall due to long down periods with holidays.

This sample schedule assumes the following breaks: 1 week in November for Fall Break,
 3 weeks in December/January for Winter Break, 1 week in April for Spring Break.

5 Day/Week Schedule Example

Duration: 6 weeks per guide (4 guides per year)

Guide #1 / Week 1: Section 1 (week 1 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read <i>Barn Dance</i> with student and discuss	
Tue	• Review story and complete Vocabulary, page 3	
Wed	• Review story and complete Characters, page 5	
Thu	• Review story and complete Comprehension, pages 7-9	
Fri	• Review story and complete Writing Exercise, page 11	

Guide #1 / Week 2: Section 2 (week 2 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read <i>Scarecrow</i> with student and discuss	
Tue	• Review story and complete Vocabulary, page 15	
Wed	• Review story and complete Characters, page 17	
Thu	• Review story and complete Comprehension, pages 19-21	
Fri	• Review story and complete Writing Exercise, page 23	

Guide #1 / Week 3: Section 3 (week 3 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read <i>How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World</i> with student and discuss	
Tue	• Review story and complete Vocabulary, page 27	
Wed	• Review story and complete Characters, page 29	
Thu	• Review story and complete Comprehension, pages 31-33	
Fri	• Review story and complete Writing Exercise, page 35	

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Guide #1 / Week 4: Section 4 (week 4 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1				GUIDE 2				GUIDE 3				GUIDE 4																													

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read <i>Apple Picking Time</i> with student and discuss	
Tue	• Review story and complete Vocabulary, page 39	
Wed	• Review story and complete Characters, page 41	
Thu	• Review story and complete Comprehension pages, 43-45	
Fri	• Review story and complete Writing Exercise, page 47	

Guide #1 / Week 5: Section 5 (week 5 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1				GUIDE 2				GUIDE 3				GUIDE 4																													

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Read <i>Earl the Squirrel</i> with student and discuss	
Tue	• Review story and complete Vocabulary, page 51	
Wed	• Review story and complete Characters, pages 53-55	
Thu	• Review story and complete Comprehension, pages 57-59	
Fri	• Review story and complete Writing Exercise, page 61	

Guide #1 / Week 6: Section 6 (week 6 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1				GUIDE 2				GUIDE 3				GUIDE 4																													

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Mon	• Select Final Project from page 65 and complete Discussion, page 67	
Tue	• Work on Final Project	
Wed	• Work on Final Project	
Thu	• Work on Final Project	
Fri	• Present Final Project to your Literature/Writing group	

Use week 7 for project presentation and review if needed

Your first Earlybird unit is complete!

Now take a 1 week break, or more if needed, before beginning your next guide.

Continue for examples of a 2 day per week schedule →



2 Day/Week Schedule Example

Duration: 6 weeks per guide (4 guides per year)

Guide #1 / Week 1: Section 1 (week 1 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Barn Dance with student and discuss Complete Vocabulary and Characters, pages 3-5 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review story Complete Comprehension and Writing Exercise, pages 7-11 	

Guide #1 / Week 2: Section 2 (week 2 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Scarecrow with student and discuss Complete Vocabulary and Characters, pages 15-17 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review story Complete Comprehension and Writing Exercise, pages 19-23 	

Guide #1 / Week 3: Section 3 (week 3 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World with student and discuss Complete Vocabulary and Characters, pages 27-29 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review story Complete Comprehension and Writing Exercise, pages 31-35 	

Guide #1 / Week 4: Section 4 (week 4 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		7	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1						GUIDE 2						GUIDE 3						GUIDE 4																							

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Apple Picking Time with student and discuss Complete Vocabulary and Characters, pages 39-41 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review story Complete Comprehension and Writing Exercise, pages 43-47 	

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Guide #1 / Week 5: Section 5 (week 5 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1					GUIDE 2					GUIDE 3					GUIDE 4																										

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Earl the Squirrel with student and discuss • Complete Vocabulary and Characters, pages 51-55 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review story • Complete Comprehension and Writing Exercise, pages 57-61 	

Guide #1 / Week 6: Section 6 (week 6 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	36	37	38	39	40		
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6															
GUIDE 1					GUIDE 2					GUIDE 3					GUIDE 4																										

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Final Project from page 65 Complete Discussion, page 67 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build Final Project and present to your Literature/Writing group 	

Use week 7 for project presentation and review if needed

Fall Stories Unit is complete!

Now take a 1 week break, or more if needed, before beginning your next guide.