

Unit Overview: Parent Guide

The Stories Julian Tells, Grade 3

What is the goal of this unit?

Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts to learn that stories and books are important for learning about themselves and others. Your child will learn how storytelling can be a way to connect people and pass on family history and traditions. Your child will get to write her own story based on illustrations.

What topics and skills is your third grader learning in this unit?

- Storytelling
- Family history and traditions
- Human connection
- Lessons learned through experience
- Character development
- Moral/Lesson of a story
- Narrative writing
- Informational writing

What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay that answers the question: *What is a central message or lesson we can learn by reading The Stories Julian Tells?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by writing a story based on the illustrations in *The Red Book*.

Your child will read these texts and watch these videos:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>The Stories Julian Tells</i>	Ann Cameron	Main text of the unit
<i>The Bee Tree</i>	Patricia Polacco	Read aloud
<i>My Librarian is a Camel: How Books are Brought to Children Around the World</i>	Margriet Ruurs	Group text
<i>The Red Book</i>	Barbara Lehman	Group text

<i>The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore</i>	William Joyce	Student text
<i>More Stories Julian Tells</i>	Ann Cameron	Student text
"A Page is a Door"	Remy Charlip	Read aloud
<i>The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore - Video</i>	William Joyce	Student text

Ideas for discussing storytelling, family traditions and history

- Why are stories important?
- Why do people tell stories?
- What stories have been passed down in your family?
- How are your family stories different from the stories you read in books?
- What can you learn about your family history from stories?
- What can you learn about your family traditions from stories?
- What can stories teach you about yourself?
- What can stories teach you about other people?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>These Hands</i>	Margaret Mason
<i>A Piece of Home</i>	Jeri Watts
<i>A Chair for My Mother</i>	Vera B. Williams
<i>Marianthe's Story: Painted Words and Spoken Memories</i>	Aliki
<i>Hey World, Here I Am!</i>	Jean Little
<i>That Book Woman</i>	Heather Henson

What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting

independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading. Before bedtime is a great time to read!
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss what you're reading. Ask questions like:
 - What was that book about?
 - What did you like about it?
 - What didn't you like about it?
 - What did you learn?
 - What questions do you have about what you read?
 - What didn't you understand about what you read?
 - What do you want to learn more about after reading the book?
 - How does this book connect to other books you've read?