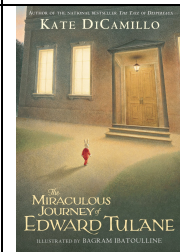
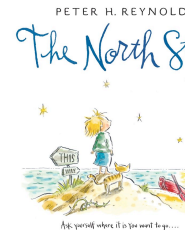
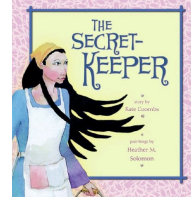


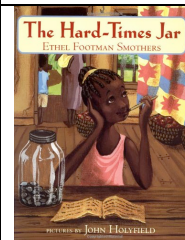
## Recommended Mentor Texts Grade 3 for “Following Characters into Meaning”

In this unit we are teaching envisionment, prediction, inference and interpretation. We want the children to walk in the characters’ shoes, see through the characters’ eyes and predict their next steps. We want readers to discern more from and make fuller use of the text noticing characters’ habits, challenges, and motivations. Readers are noticing the role of secondary characters and developing theories about the central message the author is trying to relay.

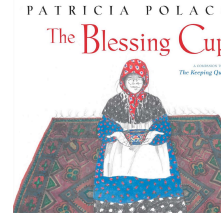
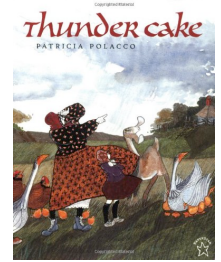
Note about Managing Time: If you choose a novel (such as *Edward Tulane*) as a mentor text, consider conducting a read-aloud with this book outside of reading workshop (e.g. after recess, before dismissal) and then the next day return to key scenes or passages for your mini-lesson.

Level	Lexile	Title, description, and teaching points	Author/ Publisher	Type	Image
Q	700	<p><i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i></p> <p>Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good reason: he was owned by a girl named Abilene who adored him completely. And then, one day, he was lost... Kate DiCamillo takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the depths of the ocean to the net of a fisherman, from the bedside of an ailing child to the bustling streets of Memphis. Along the way, we are shown a miracle—that even a heart of the most breakable kind can learn to love, to lose, and to love again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All teaching points for this unit can be addressed with this text.</li></ul>	<p>Kate DiCamillo</p> <p>Candlewick 2009</p>	Chapter Book	

		<p><i>The North Star</i></p> <p>It is often said that life is a journey, and it's true. But sometimes it's hard to know which path to follow when signs point in so many directions. In this beautifully illustrated book, Peter H. Reynolds once again encourages readers to observe, to wonder, and to consider diverging from the well-worn path — to pursue their dreams (Amazon).</p> <p>Teaching points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing ideas and formulating theories about characters</li> <li>• Walking in characters' shoes (envisionment and prediction)</li> <li>• Noticing and analyzing characters actions, thoughts and feelings</li> <li>• Inferring motivations and struggles of characters</li> <li>• Noticing how, why and when characters change</li> <li>• Noticing the role of secondary characters</li> <li>• Comparing characters with each other and to ourselves</li> <li>• Using information about characters to develop theories about the central message, lesson, or moral of the story.</li> </ul>	<p>Peter Reynolds</p> <p>Candlewick Press 2009</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	
P	870	<p><i>The Secret Keeper</i></p> <p>In the village of Maldinga, anyone troubled by a secret knows just where to take it -- by following the winding path through the woods to Kalli's cottage. Tailors and farmers, marriage-makers and bakers -- almost everyone comes to see Kalli, for she is the village secret-keeper, and over the years she has stored hundreds of secrets. But one long winter, Kalli falls ill, and the weight of the hidden secrets begins to catch up with her. Spring brings the curious villagers, who wonder what ails their secret-keeper. The time has come for them to help Kalli and for her to learn some unexpected secrets (Amazon).</p>	<p>Kate Coombs</p> <p>Atheneum Books for Young Readers 2006</p>	<p>Picture Book (fairy tale)</p>	

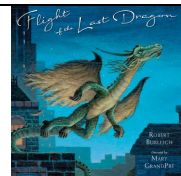
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching points: Growing ideas and formulating theories,</li> <li>• Walking in characters' shoes,</li> <li>• Noticing and analyzing characters actions/feelings,</li> <li>• Inferring motivations and struggles of characters,</li> <li>• Noticing role of secondary characters</li> </ul>			
P	520	<p><i>The Hard-Times Jar</i></p> <p>Emma Turner loves books and dreams of one day having the store-bought kind, but the Turners are migrant workers and money is tight. That means "no extras," so Emma must be content to make her own stories and books. Emma has a plan, though - she's going to save all the money she earns picking apples and put it in Mama's hard-times jar. Then there will surely be enough for extras. But when Mama tells Emma that this year she has to go to school instead of to work, it spoils everything. Now she will never own a store-bought book! But school turns out to have a wonderful surprise in store for Emma (Amazon).</p> <p>Teaching points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking in characters' shoes (envisionment and prediction)</li> <li>• Noticing and analyzing characters actions, thoughts and feelings</li> <li>• Inferring motivations and struggles of characters</li> <li>• Noticing how, why and when characters change</li> </ul>	<p>Ethel Footman Smothers</p> <p>Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR) 2003</p>	Picture Book	

**Recommended Author for Grade 3: *Following Characters into Meaning*  
Patricia Polacco**

N-Q text band	740	<p><i>The Blessing Cup</i></p> <p>This prequel to <i>The Keeping Quilt</i> (1988) recounts the story of great-grandmother Anna's childhood exodus from czarist Russia to America. The family brings along a precious tea set ("Anyone who drinks from it has a blessing from God"), hoping it will bring them good luck. When Papa falls ill from cold and exhaustion, a kindly doctor takes them in, nursing Papa back to health and eventually buying the whole family passage to America. In gratitude, they give him the tea set, keeping only one "blessing cup" for themselves (Booklist).</p>	<p>Patricia Polacco</p> <p>Simon and Schuster 2013</p>	Picture Book	
N-Q text band	630	<p><i>Thunder Cake</i></p> <p>Thunder Cake is the story of how Patricia Polacco conquered her childhood fear of Michigan thunderstorms with the assistance of her grandmother. By encouraging the young Patricia to ignore the approaching storm, the two wander outside to gather the ingredients for Thunder Cake, the perfect recipe for a rainy day.</p>	<p>Patricia Polacco</p> <p>Puffin 1997</p>	Picture Book	



## Other titles for Grade 3: Supporting *Following Characters into Meaning*

	N/A	<p><i>Flight of the Last Dragon</i></p> <p>A <u>fanciful poem</u> about the last of the dragons, Ultimon, who becomes the constellation Draco. In a modern-day city, Ultimon lives alone in the sewers, worn and sad, dreaming of his former glory. One night he emerges and begs the universe to take pity on him, and he hears a faint call from the sky. He gathers his strength for one final flight and takes his place among the stars (School Library Journal).</p>	<p>Robert Burleigh</p> <p>Philomel 2012</p>	Poem	
N-Q text band	650	<p><i>The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore</i></p> <p>This book in praise of books first appeared as a much-praised iPad app and Academy Award-winning animated short film.</p> <p><i>Morris Lessmore loved words. He loved stories. He loved books. But every story has its upsets. Everything in Morris Lessmore's life, including his own story, is scattered to the winds. But the power of story will save the day. The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore is a modern masterpiece, showing that in today's world of traditional books, eBooks, and apps, it's story that we truly celebrate—and this story, no matter how you tell it, begs to be read again and again (Amazon).</i></p>	<p>William Joyce</p> <p>Atheneum Books for Young Readers 2012</p>	Picture Book	