Our World

Unit 1

THEME: New Beginnings

Talk About It ..............................................10

Tina’s Try-Out Day
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Character, Setting, Plot . . .12

First Day Jitters Humorous Fiction ...........................14
By Julie Danneberg, illustrated by Judy Love

Making New Friends Health ..................................34
By Jan Smith

Writing: Personal Narrative ...................................36

THEME: Keeping in Touch

Talk About It ..................................................38

Mail for Matty
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Character, Setting, Plot . . .40

Dear Juno Realistic Fiction .................................42
By Soyung Pak, illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung

How We Keep in Touch Social Studies .....................68
By Eric Michaels

Writing: Personal Narrative ...................................72

THEME: Building Communities

Talk About It ..................................................74

Home Sweet Harlem
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Main Idea and Details . . .76

Whose Habitat Is It? Nonfiction Article ....................78

All Are Equal: It’s the Law! Social Studies .................82

Writing: Extended Response to Literature .................84
# THEME: Antarctic Life

**Talk About It** .................................................. 86

**Life in Antarctica**
*Vocabulary/Comprehension: Main Idea and Details* .......................... 88

**Penguin Chick**  **Narrative Nonfiction** ................................. 90
*By Betty Tatham, illustrated by Helen K. Davie*

**Antarctic Anthem**  **Poetry** .............................................. 112
*By Judy Sierra*

**Writing: Poem** .......................................................... 114

# THEME: People and Their Pets

**Talk About It** .......................................................... 116

**Choosing a Pet**
*Vocabulary/Comprehension: Problem and Solution* ...................... 118

**The Perfect Pet**  **Humorous Fiction** ................................. 120
*By Margie Palatini, illustrated by Bruce Whatley*

**Pets: True or False?**  **Science** ......................................... 142
*By Gillian Reed*

**Writing: Personal Narrative** ........................................... 146

# Test Strategy: Think and Search

**Evan’s Welcome**  **Drama** ............................................... 148
**Unit 2**

**THEME: Putting on a Performance**

**Talk About It** .......................................................... 152

**The Wind and the Sun: An Aesop’s Fable**

Vocabulary/Comprehension: Summarize .................. 154

**The Strongest One**  
Play .............................................................. 156

*By Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by Lucia Angela Perez*

**Behind the Scenes at a Play**  
Performing Arts ........................................ 172

*By Candice Bertoline*

Writing: **Persuasive Writing** ................................. 176

**THEME: Wolves**

**Talk About It** .......................................................... 178

**The Boy Who Cried Wolf**

Vocabulary/Comprehension: Fantasy and Reality ...... 180

**Wolf!**  
Fantasy .......................................................... 182

*By Becky Bloom, illustrated by Pascal Biet*

**The Truth About Wolves**  
Science .......................................................... 206

*By Paul Netcher*

Writing: **Persuasive Writing** ................................. 210

**THEME: Past, Present, and Future**

**Talk About It** .......................................................... 212

**Where Did the First Americans Live?**

Vocabulary/Comprehension: Fact and Opinion .......... 214

**What’s in Store for the Future?**  
Nonfiction Article ........................................ 216

**Will Robots Do All the Work?**  
Social Studies ................................................. 220

*By Becky Bloom, illustrated by Pascal Biet*

Writing: **Personal Narrative** ................................. 222
THEME: Out in Space

Talk About It .............................................. 224

Constellations: Pictures in the Sky
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Summarize ............ 226

The Planets in Our Solar System  Informational Nonfiction ...................... 228
By Franklyn M. Branley, illustrated by Kevin O’Malley

Star Research  Science .................................. 250

Writing: Persuasive Writing .......................... 254

THEME: Being a Writer

Talk About It .............................................. 256

Talking to Lulu Delacre, Children’s Author
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Author’s Purpose ...... 258

Author: A True Story  Autobiography ............... 260
By Helen Lester

Where I Sit Writing  Poetry ............................ 274
By Allan Ahlberg

Writing: Persuasive Writing .......................... 276

Test Strategy: Author and Me

Venus Flytrap: The Plant with Bite!  Informational Nonfiction .................. 278
Discoveries

Unit 3

THEME: Food Around the World
Talk About It .......................................................... 282

Family Feast
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Make Inferences ........ 284

Stone Soup Folktale .............................................. 286
By Jon J Muth

What’s for Lunch? Social Studies ......................... 308
By Leonard Mercury

Writing: Personal Narrative .................................. 312

THEME: Solving Riddles
Talk About It .......................................................... 314

Count on Detective Drake!
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Plot and Setting .......... 316

One Riddle, One Answer Fairy Tale ....................... 318
By Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Linda S. Wingerter

Haiku Poetry ............................................................ 336

Writing: Story .......................................................... 338

THEME: Ecosystems in Balance
Talk About It .......................................................... 340

For the Birds!
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Cause and Effect ........ 342

Saving the Sand Dunes Nonfiction Article ............. 344

Frog Frenzy! Science ............................................... 348
Writing: Persuasive Writing ..................................... 350
THEME: Making Journeys

Talk About It ................................................. 352

My Winter Vacation
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Make Inferences ........ 354

The Jones Family Express Realistic Fiction ........ 356
By Javaka Steptoe

Tips for Trips Social Studies ......................... 380
By Lauren Eckler

Writing: Story ............................................. 382

THEME: The Art of Illustrating

Talk About It ................................................. 384

Draw!
Vocabulary/Comprehension: Sequence .............. 386

What Do Illustrators Do? Narrative Nonfiction ...... 388
By Eileen Christelow

Jobs in Animation Fine Arts ......................... 412
By Lisa Soo

Writing: Play .............................................. 416

Test Strategy: Right There

Design Your Own Journal Directions ................ 418

Glossary ....................................................... 422