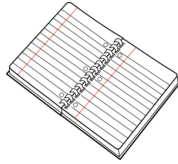




# Family Writing Connections

## Grade 4 Unit 1: The Arc of the Story--Writing Realistic Fiction



- **Conceive, develop, plan,** and carry through independent fiction projects

### Ways to help at home:

- Read realistic fiction books together to inspire ideas for their own writing.
- Talk to your child to think of realistic problems that could occur within their experiences.
- Encourage your child make up stories about characters based on himself/herself, friends, or family members.
- Ask your child to reflect on how to improve his/her writing by revising and editing.

### Overview:

Students will use their own experiences to think of realistic fiction story ideas. They will develop characters by thinking about their characteristics, motivations, and struggles. Students will learn to utilize mentor texts to model an author's writing craft to help develop powerful leads and endings, weave setting throughout the story and show, rather than tell. Finally, students will learn effective revision strategies to improve their writing. Students will carry these tools as they prepare to cycle through the writing process more independently.

### In this unit, Students will:

- **Compile** realistic fiction story ideas
- **Develop** coherent characters with motivations and struggles
- **Plan** the plot using a story arc
- **Design** leads and endings that model effective techniques used by mentor author(s)
- **Describe** the setting throughout the story in order to ground the characters
- **Write** scenes that show, rather than tell the action in the story
- **Consider** making substantial revisions once the draft is complete
- **Apply** revision strategies
- **Edit** their writing for spelling and punctuation

### See attached Writing Rubric and Exemplars for this Unit:

- Fourth Grade Narrative Writing Checklist
- Narrative Writing Exemplar: *The Scary Walk to School*

### New Jersey Student Learning

**Standards (NJSLS):** Please refer to Morris School District Rubicon Atlas Website to view standards specific to this unit.

