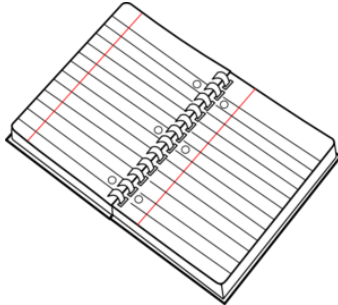




Family Writing Connections

Grade 4 Unit 5: Writing About Reading-The Literary Essay



Overview:

Students will continue to strengthen their persuasive writing skills as they explore literary essay writing. In addition, students will bridge reading and writing as they learn how to analyze familiar picture books in order to write a persuasive essay about the text's theme, character traits, or author's craft, supporting their claims with explanation and carefully selected text evidence.

In this unit, Students will:

- **Craft** a solid organizational structure of a literary essay effectively
- **Support** a claim with both well-developed reasons and purposefully selected textual evidence
- **Incorporate** transitional phrases for clarity and cohesiveness
- **Analyze** characters and plotlines for characters' complexities, lessons learned, and overarching themes within a text
- **Interpret** and **analyze** the way words, phrases and ideas are used in a text
- **Write** a comparative essay, **comparing and contrasting** analyses across multiple texts, raising the level

of their thinking and allowing them to pay closer attention to the nuances of the texts

- **Evaluate** and **revise** writing using a writing checklist
- **Edit** writing for correct punctuation, tenses, and pronoun references

Ways to help at home:

- Ask your child to talk about character traits, theme, and author's craft in the book he or she is reading at home.
- Extend your child's thinking by asking him/her to provide evidence to support his/her thinking.
- Encourage your child to read closely and carefully, mining a text for ideas about characters' traits, motivations, troubles, changes, and relationships.
- Ask your child to discuss the theme and compare and contrast it to books with similar plots or themes.

See attached Writing Rubric and Exemplars for this Unit:

- Fourth Grade Opinion Writing Checklist
- Exemplar: *Literary Essay to "Eleven"*

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

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



Family Writing Connections

Grade 4 Unit 5: Writing About Reading-The Literary Essay

