



Family Reading Connections

Grade 4 Unit 1: Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story



Overview:

During this unit, *Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story*, students will establish a reading life for themselves by investing in the classroom community and the rituals and procedures put into place at the launch of the unit. Students will choose books to read intensely, paying extra attention to what they are reading, in order to grow solid, grounded ideas about the text. During the course of this unit, students will think deeply about characters and develop evidence-based theories about them. They will work on building a greater understanding, an interpretation, of their books by looking beyond characters as they study other elements of the story, connect parts of the story to the whole text, and determine the central themes.

In this unit, students will:

- **Choose** books they can read fluently and understand well
- **Utilize** monitoring strategies to decode accurately and improve comprehension
- **Retell** part of the book they've just read, then go back and **summarize** the earlier parts of the book that relate to just that part (synthesis retelling)
- **Envision** what they are reading by making movies in their minds
- **Predict** using what they know about characters' motivations & traits, the setting,

the events of the story, and how stories tend to go

- **Develop** significant ideas, or theories, about characters by noticing character's actions, patterns in behavior, and character's desires and how they are achieved
- **Use** text evidence to support their thoughts about characters (e.g., traits; how they are complicated) and theme
- **Determine** the central theme in a book by thinking about big life issues and what the author may be trying to teach about those issues
- **Analyze** author's craft (e.g., repeated details; recurring images, objects, ideas, mood) to grow ideas about characters and reveal important messages
- **Analyze** parts of a story in relation to the whole
- **Utilize** precise academic language to explain thoughts about the character

Ways to help at home:

- Nightly reading:
 - Ask questions & talk to your child about his/her reading
 - Listen to your child read

New Jersey Student Learning Standards

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



"Attached is the "Self Assessment Rubric," which identifies the most important objectives for each unit.



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