



Family Reading Connections

Grade 4 Unit 5: Historical Fiction Clubs



Overview:

During this unit, *Historical Fiction Clubs*, students will learn to read complex texts with strong literal comprehension, monitoring for sense, actively working to fit the pieces together, and working with support from a book club to keep track of multiple plotlines, many characters, and shifts in time and place. They will learn to grow multiple ideas about their texts, draft and revise their ideas on their own as they encounter new settings and characters, and reconsider and elaborate these ideas in book club discussions.

Students will learn that as books become more sophisticated, the setting becomes significant. It may function as part of the problem that a character has to overcome, it can be an emotional space that creates the tone or mood of a place, or the setting can operate at a symbolic level. These settings can not only impact the characters, but they can teach us powerful lessons about ourselves, life, and the world.

In this unit, students will:

- **Utilize** fix-up strategies to monitor for sense
- **Analyze** the setting to identify when and where the story is taking place (physical setting) and what kind of place it is (emotional setting)
- **Actively listen** and **participate** in collaborative discussions to grow ideas
- **Utilize** comprehension tools (timelines, graphic organizers, lists of characters) and strategies to tackle complex texts
- **Determine** and **develop** big ideas or themes

- **Identify** character change and **infer** possible reasons why changes might occur
- **Infer** why characters react to events and to changes in the setting
- **Describe** characters, settings, and events in order to **envision**
- **Utilize** and **interpret** primary sources to build knowledge of historical time periods and deepen understanding of characters & events
- **Analyze** how parts of a story fit together by looking closely at author's craft or story elements
- **Analyze** character's perspective and notice which perspectives are missing
- **Compare and contrast** themes across novels

Ways to help at home:

- Nightly reading:
 - Ask questions & talk to your child about his/her reading
 - Listen to your child read
- Provide opportunities for your child to research/explore nonfiction texts, websites, magazines, newspaper articles (e.g., Newsela) to build background knowledge of time periods of their historical fiction novels
 - Discuss what they have learned

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.*