

Curriculum Parent Overview (Grade 4)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

UNIT #6: FRIENDSHIP (7 WEEKS)

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What makes a good friend?

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS:

Students will understand that friendship can be defined and demonstrated in many ways. Different people may describe a good friend very differently than the next person. Traits like honesty, kindness, and a sense of humor may not always be evident in the same friend.

UNIT SUMMARY:

In this unit, students will explore the meaning of friendship through several texts. The class will read poems, articles, and a novel (*Holes* by Louis Sachar). By reading about the experiences of different people and characters, students will grow their ideas about friendship and its complexities. Through dialogue, the class will continue to think through their thoughts about what it means to be a good friend.

ATTITUDES - STUDENTS WILL BE...

- Open to learning about myself and my friendships through characters' actions.

SKILLS - STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Determine the theme of a story, drama or poem from details in the text.
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
- Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.
- Communicate clearly, listen well, and cooperate with others.
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT...

- What characteristics are important in a good friend?
- Are any of your friends really different from you? What makes them different?
- Are you friends with anyone online? What do you have to be careful of when you only know the person through the internet?
- Do you think good friends ever argue? Why do you think that?
- Have you ever lied to a friend? Is it ever ok to lie to a friend?