

Fifth Grade

Unit 1

Reading: Interpretation Book Clubs	Writing: Narrative Craft
<p>In this unit, students embark on a study of interpretation by working with their book clubs to read closely, notice how story elements connect, understand how different authors develop the same theme, and compare and contrast texts that develop a similar theme. They utilize their readers' notebooks to analyze different texts, and notice the roles that characters play in advancing (or pushing back against) a theme. Students also compare and contrast the ways in which themes are developed across texts. Finally, students will study the way in which a theme can be developed differently in different texts.</p>	<p>This unit teaches techniques for raising the level of narrative writing, by looking closely at the work of mentor authors. The writer learns to develop characters, setting, and plot throughout his story, especially the “heart” of the story – using a blend of description, action, dialogue, and thinking. This unit helps students deliberately use their knowledge of narrative craft to make their stories more elaborate and cohesive.</p>

Unit 2

Reading: Tackling Complexity: Moving Up Levels of Nonfiction	Writing: Journalism
<p>This unit teaches students to embrace the complexities of their nonfiction texts. Students will investigate the ways nonfiction becomes more complex, and learn strategies to tackle these new challenges, such as untangling multiple main ideas. Students learn to analyze differences in authors' perspectives across texts, particularly focusing on authors' craft and structure decisions. Finally, readers make their own text connections and generate new interpretations, as they engage in “close reading” of texts.</p>	<p>In this unit, students learn responsible, ethical journalism. Students bring forth much of what they know from writing other genres - weave in bits of powerful narrative, draw on information writing skills to explain ideas and events, and even make arguments. First, students focus on concise, focused news reports that tell who, what, where and when with a sense of drama. Finally, they delve into writing investigative feature articles.</p>

Unit 3

Reading: Argument and Advocacy: Researching Debatable Issues	Writing: Literary Essays: Opening Texts and Seeing More
<p>Students read complex nonfiction texts to conduct research on a debatable topic, consider perspective and craft, evaluate arguments, and formulate their own evidence-based, ethical positions on issues. This is a unit that not only supports students in reading more complex and challenging nonfiction, but it also aims to support our fifth graders in becoming more active and critical citizens.</p>	<p>This unit aims to make reading a more intense, analytical experience for young people, equipping them with tools they need to write essays that advance an idea about a piece of literature. This unit relies on students' prior experiences with writing personal and persuasive essays, including writing with a clear claim and supporting details.</p>

Unit 4

Reading: Fantasy Book Clubs: The Magic of Themes and Symbols	Writing: Research Based Argument Essays
<p>Students work in clubs to become deeply immersed in the fantasy genre and further develop higher-level thinking skills to study how authors develop characters and themes over time. They think metaphorically as well as analytically, explore the quests and themes within and across their novels, and consider the implications of conflicts, themes, and lessons learned.</p>	<p>In this unit, you'll teach children the writing skills of a researcher and an essayist. Students will research a topic, form an opinion on that topic, and craft these opinions into an argument essay. This unit teaches fifth graders to build powerful arguments that convincingly balance evidence and analysis to persuade readers to action.</p>