

## December Newsletter

Hello families!

Your kids have been working hard on finishing their unit books! We've had interesting discussions about character development and what kinds of symbols/images the author chooses to describe them. 5th graders discussed what challenges Malala faced and how she overcame them. After your student finishes their book, they will be creating a final project to showcase their learning.

Students are developing their persuasive writing skills. They've been writing about changes they'd like to see at school. Many of the topics were related to more outside/free time. We've also discussed making more time for games and fun at school. When the weather is mild, I will hold classes outside in the courtyard. We did this a few weeks ago and the kids had fun reading and exploring outside.

Next up: I will be introducing students to the depth and complexity icons. They are visual prompts to support students with critical thinking. I emailed a copy of the parent guide on 12/10. If you didn't receive it, please send me an email@[nellie.mcleanbrowne@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:nellie.mcleanbrowne@mpls.k12.mn.us)

If you're looking for some book recommendations, here are a couple of lists!

[Best books of 2024 for 10-12 yrs olds](#)

[Popular books for 3-5th graders, goodreads](#)

[Common sense media 5th graders](#)

Thank you and have a great week,

Nellie