GERMANTOWN ACADEMY

# FOURTH GRADE LITERACY SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

## Spellwell

### What is *Spellwell*?

The *Spellwell* series serves as the word study program for third, fourth, and fifth grades at Germantown Academy. This word study program is designed around spelling rules or generalizations. Each week students learn the one or two principles that relate to their group of spelling words. "Outlaw Words" that don't follow a spelling rule and "Classroom Words" provided by teachers are also studied. Books are typically designated *B* and *BB* for third-grade level, *C* and *CC* for fourth, and *D* and *DD* for fifth, however this can vary depending on a student's readiness assessment.

### How does *Spellwell* work?

At the beginning of each week, students take a pretest to allow teachers to target a certain area of spelling for each student. Words are specific to each student, and not all students will have the same words. Students learn the one or two principles that relate to their group of spelling words. Throughout the week students practice spelling in a variety of formats including vocabulary expansion, thinking skills, and puzzles. The weekly goal is for all students to master the spelling principles of that week's lesson. A weekly spelling test will assess mastery of spelling words.

### How is *Spellwell used at home*?

The *Spellwell* program provides for daily practice at home. The activities to be done at home include finding rhyming words, sorting words, adding affixes, and writing words in puzzles, stories and bingo games. They also include identifying and writing words for the students' reading books that fit the lesson's pattern.

# Reading and Writing Workshop

## A Framework for Responsive Teaching

The Reading and Writing Project's approach to instruction recognizes that "one size fits all" does not match the realities of the classrooms and schools in which they work. When you walk into a workshop classroom at any given moment, you'll see instruction that is designed to:

- help teachers address each child's individual learning;
- explicitly teach strategies students will use not only the day they are taught but whenever they need them;
- help students work with engagement so that teachers are able to coach individuals and lead small groups;
- support small-groupwork and conferring with multiple opportunities for personalizing instruction;
- tap into the power of a learning community as a way to bring all learners along;
- build choice and assessment-based learning into the very design of the curriculum.

The routines and structures of reading and writing workshop are kept simple and predictable so that the teacher can focus on the complex work of teaching in a responsive manner to accelerate achievement for all learners.

| GRADE 4 READING UNITS | GRADE 4 WRITING UNITS |
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| **UNIT 1** ***Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story:*** This unit invites students to delve into complex texts and see significance in details. They study the complexity of characters and the themes.<br><br>**UNIT 2** ***Reading the Weather, Reading the World:*** This unit teaches students that expository texts are organized into text structures and that they can use their knowledge of structures to figure out what's important. Children study tone and craft, practice close reading, and evaluate sources for credibility.<br><br>**UNIT 3** ***Reading History: The American Revolution:*** Students use text structures to organize notes and thinking, synthesize information, and tackle primary sources. You'll also teach strategies to help students read complex texts, preview and paraphrase, and extract main ideas.<br><br>**UNIT 4** ***Historical Fiction Clubs:*** In this unit, students practice reading analytically, synthesizing complicated narratives, comparing and contrasting themes, and incorporating nonfiction research into their reading. | **UNIT 1** ***The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction:*** In this unit, students learn that the lenses they bring to reading fiction can also be brought to writing fiction, as they develop believable characters with struggles, motivations, and rich stories to tell.<br><br>**UNIT 2** ***Boxes and Bullets: Personal and Persuasive Essays:*** This unit teaches students to learn the value of organization and form as they gather evidence to support and express an opinion on topics they know well.<br><br>**UNIT 3** ***Bringing History to Life:*** Students are invited to tackle historical research in this unit, in which they collect evidence and use details to vividly describe people and events long ago and far away.<br><br>**UNIT 4** ***The Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction:*** This unit brings the series full circle as students build on their learning of essay writing and apply it with increasing sophistication to a unit on literary essays—that is, writing about fiction. |