

Welcome!

Grade 4, Unit 9

Novel Study: *Hello, Universe*

In this unit, students will read the novel *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly and will focus on analyzing character development and making text-to-life connections.

What's the story?

Students will learn about **bravery** and **friendship** as they read *Hello, Universe*. This novel study will help students grow in their reading abilities and their enjoyment of **authentic texts** and will encourage them to appreciate other people's **perspectives** and **experiences**.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about the **author's craft and purpose** as they analyze the relationships among the characters in the story. They will be challenged to **evaluate** their first impressions of people, **reflect** on their relationships, and **integrate** the different kinds of learning they do throughout the school day.

Daily **close reading** and **writing activities** to practice **literary analysis** will support students' successful completion of the culminating task for the unit: the *Hello, Universe* Character Analysis Project. For this project, students will **create a presentation** that portrays their own analysis of how two or three characters develop in the novel.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. Why does the author write about friendship?
Follow up: What do you think the power of friendship is? What do you think makes a good friend?
2. Who are the main characters in the novel?
Follow up: Which character or characters do you like the most? What do you find interesting about them?
3. How should you react if you see bullying at school or in your neighborhood?
Follow up: Why do you think some kids bully other kids? How does bullying cause harm?
4. Why is it good to be kind to people of different backgrounds and abilities?
Follow up: How can you show consideration to someone who is deaf or hard of hearing?
5. Can you relate to any of the characters in the story?
Follow up: How does Virgil show courage? How does Kaori show she is a good friend?