

Fourth Grade English Language Arts

Third Trimester

March 17 – June

March: Author Study

Essential Questions:

How does reading multiple books by one author help us learn about how authors create characters and bring them to life?

What can we learn about the development of a character from a mentor author to improve our own writing?

Skills:

Students will:

- Look across texts by the same author to find similarities and differences
- Collaborate with others to research an author and characters through multiple texts
- Learn how to use a mentor author to guide their writing
- Analyze and trace a character through multiple books
- Recognize patterns that occur in the different writing techniques the author uses to bring the characters to life
- Write about characters they research and write through the lenses of those characters
- Summarize text
- Describe how a narrator's point of view influences how events are described
- Use the writing process
- Use legible print or cursive writing
- Correctly spell words within own writing that have been previously studied or that follow previously studied spelling patterns
- Observe rules of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

April: Test Preparation

Essential Questions:

How can studying the yearly language arts test as if it were a genre help us to uncover its predictable elements?

How do we know which reading strategies to use to answer the questions on a test?

How do we craft the best possible answers to writing prompts?

Skills:

Students will:

- Understand the predictable structure of the test
- Practice key performance strategies associated with multiple choice questions
- Use their knowledge of multiple genres in order to read in search of specific information
- Learn the effective structures with which to craft their responses
- Study the expectations for this type of writing and evaluate their own writing against the expectations

May: Reading, Talking, and Writing Traditional Literature

Essential Questions:

What are the differences among folktales, fantasies and fables?

How are the characters and lessons of folktales, fantasies and fables important in helping us learn lessons about life?

What are the similarities and differences among these genres?

How do you incorporate the elements of a folktale, fantasy or fable into your own writing?

How does the use of dialogue and figurative language enhance your writing?

Skills:

Students will:

- identify literary devices including simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, etc.
- identify and state the moral of a folktale or fable
- identify the literary elements of a folktale, fable and tall tales

- compose a traditional tale using dialogue, figurative language and the appropriate elements of traditional tales
- demonstrate fluent reading using verbs that describe the way dialogue is spoken
- learn proper spelling of content area words
- use legible print and/or cursive writing
- correctly spell words within own writing that have been previously studied or that follow previously studied spelling patterns
- use a variety of spelling resources, such as dictionaries, to support correct spelling
- use the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading editing, and publishing
- observe rules of grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

June: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Making Summer Reading and Writing Plans

Essential Questions:

What have I learned about myself as a reader and a writer this year?

Did I achieve my personal goals and the goals of the class?

What will I accomplish as a reader and a writer this summer?

What inspires me?

Skills:

Students will:

- Revisit all books read and notice how they have grown or changed as a reader
- Make summer reading plans and share these with their families
- Write reflection on their writing this year, noting growth, inspirations, successes, and challenges
- Share their reflections with an audience
- Think across the body of their work, looking for common techniques and influences
- Appreciate the importance of writing during the summer