

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership."- James Humes

November 2017

NOVEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

Students will be finishing their narratives this month and will learn the difference between editing and revising a piece of writing. Many students tend to just fix grammar and capitalization mistakes. When *revising*, students will learn strategies on how to improve their writing. They will **replace** words that are overused, or **add** details or descriptive words that make a sentence more interesting or informative. Sometimes a writer needs to **delete** words or sentences that are

unrelated to the point being made. Finally, authors need to **reorder** sentences or paragraphs to ensure their writing makes sense and sends the audience the intended message. Ask your child to share his or her *Exploded Moment* once it has gone through the revision process.

This month we will also focus on *theme*. Theme is message that an author wants the reader to take away. For instance, we learn how a person's pride

can be a downfall in of Arachne, a myth which compliments our social studies curriculum. In James Thurber's fable, *The Tiger Who Would be King*, we learn how the desire for power can lead to self-destruction. These universal themes can be found in not only books, but also songs, movies, and television shows. Whenever we learn a lesson or look deeper at a person's motives, we begin to understand the big idea the author is attempting to make.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Many of our students spend numerous hours in front of a screen, whether they are watching YouTube, playing video games, or binge-watching TV. Many of these video games, from classics such as Zelda to the more current Destiny II,

pit good against evil. Many shows focus on universal themes.

Most students do not stop to think about how modern day entertainment is based upon big ideas that are found across all types of genres. These

ideas reflect society. Our children's interests become avenues to teach, and who knows, you may find yourself sharing stories about your favorite way to spend time when you were your child's age.

Memoir Recommendations

<i>Mo'on Davis: Remember My Name</i> by Mo'on Davis	Gr 6
<i>I Will Always Write Back</i> by Caitlin Alifrenka & Martin Ganada	Gr 7
<i>Ryan Higa's How to Write Good</i> by Ryan Higa	Gr 8

*November MA ELA State Standards

- RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.
- W.6.3c Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
- W.6.3d Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, figurative and sensory language, and techniques such as personification (e.g., "the fog crept in") to convey experiences or events.
- L.6.4a. Use context as a clue to the meaning of a word/phrase.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of November as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

c.tolpa@schoolsofwestfield.org

413-642-9318