

# GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

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

November 2017

## NOVEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

This month's students will focus on two skills as they finish the novel *Seedfolks*: revision and writing literary analysis essays. Writers will learn strategies to improve the chapters they are composing. First, students will listening to model examples of chapters so they can hear how a "good" chapter sounds. Students will also learn strategies on how to improve their writing by **replacing** words

that are overused, or **adding** details that make a sentence more interesting. 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.

Students will dive deeper into the themes of this book as well. They will learn how to write a

literary analysis that focuses on given themes. They will also be expected to find evidence from the text to support the themes they are writing about.

Having concrete strategies for editing and revising anything we write is a skill that will apply in both college and career. Being able to think about a text in a deeper way allows us to better understand the intention of the author.

### Memoir Recommendations

<i>Mo'on Davis: Remember My Name</i> by Mo'on Davis	Gr 6
<i>I Will Always Write Back</i> by Caitin 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.7.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- W.7.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- W.7.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 7 standards for reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.

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

## EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Writing is one of the most difficult skills anyone can learn. Just like any sport or hobby, in order to get better at writing, one must practice in order to get better. Showing your child how writing is important to your life helps to make this skill relevant. Have you written a letter of complaint? A review for Amazon or Yelp? Have you written a letter or email to a

friend or colleague? There are grammatical and structural expectations for each of these types of writings, and sharing how valuable writing is to your every day routine is a step in the right direction in making it important to a teenager.

Another way to encourage your child to see the value in writing and revision, is to ask them to

proofread something that you wrote. This task is a great way for your child to take charge of a relevant writing task that is important to the family.



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

c.tolpa@schoolsofwestfield.org

413-642-9318