

GRADE 8 ELA UPDATE

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

November 2017

NOVEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

As students begin to revise and edit their narratives, they will look at how to enhance their first drafts. They may add more dialogue to move the plot or further develop a character; they re-examine their word choices and decide on more appropriate, descriptive words that help develop the mood. As they revise, we want them to learn that "writing is never done," and each time

we pick up our own writing with a writer's eye, we can improve it. This month students will look at a topic through various genres and text structures. For instance, students could study the idea of vanity by reading Ovid's *Narcissus and Echo*, viewing Caravaggio's painting, *Narcissus*, listening to Iron Maiden's *Flight of Icarus*, and reading Aesop's *The Stag and his Reflection*.

Students will analyze how the structure of each text contributes to its meaning, and how all of these genres compare to one another.



Narcissus by Caravaggio

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.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story, poem, or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- RL.8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts; analyze how the structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style and how the texts differ.
- W.8.3b. Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- W.8.3c. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.

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

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Ask your student to read his or her narrative to you. Talk to them about the changes they made to practice revision strategies and improve their writing. Next year these students begin their final leg of K-12 education. As teen-

agers heading to high school, they will be asked to write, react, and revise on a consistent basis. Ask your child to edit things you write, allowing them to see the relevancy of writing outside of the classroom. Point out

how different professions use writing and critical thinking skills. Writing is one of the most difficult skills to learn, more difficult than playing an instrument or golf. Practice with feedback is the best way to improve.

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

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