

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

January 2017

JANUARY'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

As we embark on a new year, we will shift our focus to more informational reading and writing. Students will continue to apply the language learning of December to new experiences. In order to help students read more difficult texts, we will look at how authors structure their writing and how text features assist us in locating information, making predictions, and comprehending what we read.

Another more complex concept that students will be studying is what we refer to as "The Power of Parts." Students will look at the importance of words to a sentence; sentences to paragraphs; paragraphs to chapters; and chapters to the whole. Students will look at parts of texts to determine how they function and contribute to meaning, including the central idea. We will engage

in this learning with texts comprised of different structures, such as cause/effect, classification, and chronological.

Ultimately, students will write a compare/contrast essay to demonstrate their understanding of this writing structure.



EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Sometimes our children have a tendency to spend a great deal of time flipping through a book or website to find information without using standard features to assist in their search. Take some time this month to explore different types of texts.

Have your child look for a recipe in a cookbook using the table of contents or the index. Let them search for a car to buy on the internet and show them how to narrow their search options using a filter. Let them map out a drive that they may take this

month by using Google Maps or another mapping app. Help them to notice that taking the time up front to understand how a text functions, saves them a lot of time in the future.

Reading Recommendations

<i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Gr 6
<i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton	Gr 7
<i>The Eye of Minds</i> by James Dashner	Gr 8

*January: MA ELA State Standards

- RI.6.2. Determine the central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- RI.6.5. Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the text.
- W.6.2a. Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting, graphics, and multi-media when useful in aiding comprehension.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of January 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