

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

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

February 2017

FEBRUARY'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

During the month of February, students will continue to study argumentation and should be well on their way to writing their argument paper. They will also have the opportunity to take a closer look at how writers and speakers distinguish their point of view from others while looking at opposing view points on similar topics.

Students will be examining Christopher Reeve's speech to the

1996 Democratic Convention to address funding for the Americans with Disabilities Act. They will compare the text to the actual video of his speech to analyze each medium's portrayal of the subject. Reeve's Hollywood career as America's beloved Superman during the 1980's is a stark contrast to his life after his 1995 horse riding accident. The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the



impact of watching a well-delivered speech and studying how word choice with effective presentation skills can make a difference in the message that is conveyed.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

In order to learn anything new, one of the greatest assets we have is models. When a high school quarterback wants to improve his performance, he may watch clips of college and professional quarterbacks to learn new moves and improve form. When a person is interested in

buying a new house, she may look at different models to better understand which design she likes best. Taking the time to look at models brings a different perspective to learning.

This month, take some time with your child to view some historical or current speeches.

Listen to the speaker's volume and intonation; watch the person's mannerisms; and pay attention to the word choice. These models will remind students that effective arguments are delivered in numerous ways with deliberate purpose and poise.

Reading Recommendations

<i>Percy Jackson's Greek Gods</i> by Rick Riordan	Gr 6
<i>The Thing about Jellyfish</i> by Ali Benjamin	Gr 7
<i>I am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai	Gr 8

*February: MA ELA State Standards

- RI.7.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
- RL.7.7. Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
- W.7.1b. Support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

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

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

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