OCTOBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

This month we begin focusing our learning around the novel, Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman. Some of the concepts that students will study through this text are summarizing, theme, character development, and symbolism. Ultimately, students will write their own chapter from a self-created character’s point of view, replicating the author’s style and developing the conflict. Chapters will be reviewed and revised in November using the STAR revision strategy.

One of the areas we ask students to focus upon in both speaking and writing is word choice. The words a person chooses can send different messages to his or her audience. For instance, there is a different connotation between the words house and home, or immature and youthful. We want students to be purposeful in their word choice as they navigate communicating in the classroom and in society.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Ask your child about the novel Seedfolks and which character they enjoyed reading about best. Ask them about a character they would like to create and potential problems that the character may encounter living on Gibb Street in Cleveland, Ohio. Part of becoming a good writer is being able to imagine a setting and characters using our five senses. Helping your student think about his story and character before actually developing the chapter will provide a foundation for writing.

Community of Readers Celebration Dates:
NMS: October 25, 2017
SMS: November 2, 2017

Short Story Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Shirley Jackson</td>
<td>Gr 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Summer in a Day</td>
<td>Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>Gr 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Monkey’s Paw</td>
<td>W.W. Jacobs</td>
<td>Gr 8</td>
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</tbody>
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"October MAEJA State Standards"

- RL.7.3: Analyze how particular elements of a story, poem, or drama (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).
- RL.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of how sound choices contribute to the text’s overall meaning.
- W.7.8b: Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- W.7.8c: Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and figurative and sensory language to establish a mood that reflects an emotion, to capture action; and to convey experiences and events.

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

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