

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

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

October 2017

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.



Short Story Recommendations

<i>Charles</i> by Shirley Jackson	Gr 6
<i>All Summer in a Day</i> by Ray Bradbury	Gr 7
<i>The Monkey's Paw</i> by W.W. Jacobs	Gr 8

*October

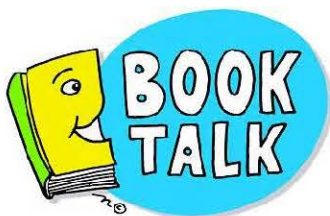
MA ELA State Standards

- RL.7.3. Analyze how particular elements of a story, poem, or drama interact (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 specific word choices on meaning, tone, or mood, including the impact of repeated use of particular images.
- W.7.3b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- W.7.3d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and figurative and sensory language to establish a mood that evokes an emotion, to capture action, and to convey experiences and events.

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

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

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

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