OCTOBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

This month, students will read Shakespeare’s prologue to Romeo and Juliet in order to learn about both theme and irony. They will also read other short stories to emphasize these concepts and expand on the literary technique of irony to include verbal, situational, and dramatic. Word choice will be a focus in both speaking and writing as students reflect on how words affect both the tone and mood in a story. The skills and concepts that students learn from reading short stories will be applied to learning the craft of writing short stories. Students will concentrate on how the setting of a story impacts the mood of the story and the development of the characters. These stories will be reviewed and revised during the month of November using our STAR strategy.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Themes and irony can be difficult concepts for students to fully grasp. Whenever you happen upon an ironic event, sign, or situation, take some time to explain it to your child. When watching television or a movie, discuss the message the author may have been trying to convey to his audience. These higher levels of critical thinking need to be practiced and nurtured in order to develop.

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

Short Stories Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>Shirley Jackson</td>
<td>Gr 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Summer in a Day</td>
<td>Ray Bradbury</td>
<td>Gr 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Monkey's Paw</td>
<td>W.W. Jacobs</td>
<td>Gr 8</td>
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*October MA ELA State Standards
- RL.9.1: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of a text.
- RL.8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific words on meaning and tone; analyze how diction and images of a text create mood and overall tone.
- RL.9-10.C: Analyze how a particular choice of words or phrases conveys an implication not explicit in the literal meaning of the words (e.g., connotations, sensory details).
- W.9-10.5: Use precise words and phrases and relevant descriptive details to convey ideas, evoke emotions (e.g., human nature, social, academic, audience) and to convey aspirations 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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