

GRADE 8 ELA UPDATE

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

October 2017

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.



Short Stories 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

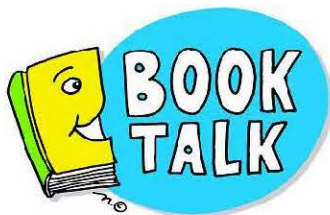
MA ELA State Standards

- RL.8.1. 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 and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning, tone, and mood, including the impact of allusion and irony.
- RL.8.6. Analyze how differences in the points of view of characters and audience (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.
- W.8.3d. Use precise words and phrases and relevant descriptive details to convey tone (the writer's attitude toward the subject: e.g., humorous, serious, or ironic) and to convey experiences and events.

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

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

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

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