

Grade 3 Reading Unit 4 - Character Study

In this unit your child will focus on characters in their books in order to form a deeper understanding of the text. He or she will begin to develop theories about what motivates and changes characters by noticing and analyzing patterns in characters' reactions to trouble. Through this deeper understanding, your child will interpret themes in realistic fiction stories.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Inferring meaning about characters (using prior knowledge and clues from the text)
- Noticing how characters respond to events and how they change over time
- Analyzing parts of the story in relation to the whole story
- Tracking and analyzing the troubles that characters face and overcome
- Making predictions and drawing conclusions about characters
- Using conversation to develop deeper understanding of characters

Questions to ask as your child is reading at home:

- What do you know about your character(s)? How do you know?
- Do you notice any patterns with your character(s)?
- Did your character(s) face any problems?
- Did your character(s) solve any problems?
- Did your character(s) learn any lessons?
- Can you compare your character to any other character you've read previously?

Books your child may enjoy during this unit:

- Matilda- Roald Dahl
- Because of Winn Dixie- Kate DiCamillo
- The Summer my Father was Ten- Pat Brisson
- Each Kindness- Jaqueline Woodson

Continue to enjoy reading aloud to your child and talking about the troubles that the characters face. This will give you and your child the opportunity to compare the characters that he or she is reading about to another strong character who is facing trouble and learning life lessons.