

Grade 4 Reading - Unit 2 Character Study

In this unit your child will focus on developing a deeper understanding of character. This will encourage your child to expand his or her knowledge of the problems and issues characters can face in text, and that people can face in real life. He or she will begin by practicing reading strategies necessary to understand character. Your child will grow his or her thinking by developing a theory and gathering evidence to support it. Finally, your child will build an interpretation across the entire text, rather than solely about characters. These interpretations will connect parts of the story to determine the text's central theme.

Skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Visualizing- Creating a mental picture by closely reading scenes
- Inferring- Using prior knowledge and clues from the text
- Making connections- Text to text, text to self, text to world
- Making predictions- Using text evidence to predict what will happen next
- Synthesizing- Using various ideas to develop your own opinion
- Interpreting texts- Thinking across the text to understand theme and develop deeper opinions

Questions to consider asking your child:

- Can you tell me a part of your book that helped you really “see” a scene in the book?
- Have you made personal connections with your character? Does your character remind you of anything we have done together? Would you want to be friends with this character?
- Has your character changed throughout the book? How so?
- What predictions can you make on how your character might react to a problem?

Some books that may be shared in class are:

- Fireflies
- Miss Rumphius
- The Other Side
- Emily

Remind your child to begin thinking about the text, the character, and developing a theory or idea about that character. Ask your child to support his or her opinion with evidence from the text. This is a wonderful time to read series books both at home and at school. Enjoy discovering together how characters grow and change across a book and a series.