



Grade 4 Writing Unit 3 – Literary Essay

In this unit, your child will build on essay writing skills and strategies. He/she will respond in writing about characters and themes in a literary essay. This writing unit will coincide with the “Book Club” reading unit. This will tie together reading and writing as your child infers and makes interpretations in both areas. Students will work in book clubs to grow and revise theories about characters and universal themes from picture books and chapter books discussed with peers.

Skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Reading closely to generate ideas about a read text
- Finding and analyzing patterns in symbols and character actions/reactions to trouble
- Finding and testing a thesis about a character or theme
- Collecting reasons and evidence to support a thesis
- Sorting, classifying and ranking evidence to support reasons
- Using transition words
- Quoting and citing a text
- Using writing partners and checklists to self-assess and set goals for revision

You can support your child at home by having conversations about the kind of characters he/she is reading about. Discussing multiple ways to interpret character actions, motivations and the lessons that characters are learning in stories will help your child identify ideas to discuss and write about with his/her book club at school. As your child works through books, encourage him/her to identify the critical scenes that show how a character reacts to trouble.