



Grade 4 Writing Unit 1 – The Arc of the Story

Welcome to Grade 4 Writing! In this first unit, we will focus on narrative writing. A major goal of this unit is to increase independence and to further develop narrative writing skills. Using a story arc as a road map, your child will learn to develop a realistic fiction story based on possible real-life issues. We will explore the development of character, setting, tension, and resolution across story scenes using the narrative story arc. Your child will work both independently and collaboratively to reflect on his/her work and continually revise based on personal writing goals.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Setting goals for personal writing
- Using small moment stories
- Developing believable characters with struggle and motivation
- Feeling and drafting the “heart of the story” with action, dialogue, thought, and feeling
- Developing a plot with a story arc
- Writing powerful endings

Talking points to consider at home:

- Have conversations with your child about realistic fiction books (including any elements you have seen in books you are reading too!)
- Talk about characters and what makes them believable
- Talk about action, dialogue, thoughts and feelings in books

Your child will be exposed to a variety of realistic fiction stories. These may include:

- Fireflies
- Picture books
- Chapter books
- Short story anthologies

Your child will be using a writing checklist throughout the unit to inform his or her goal setting and reflection.