

Grade 4 Reading Unit 4- Social Issues Book Clubs

In this unit, your child will focus on building his/her comprehension through deep conversations with peers. He/she will engage in reading social issues books in order to do the collaborative thinking and talking about reading. He/she will prepare discussion questions, come up with big ideas about texts, and support opinions with text based evidence. We also use this unit to learn about building on the conversation of our peers, including disagreeing respectfully with others' opinions. This collaborative work supports the literary essay students are working on in their writing unit. Students will start the work of the unit in picture books to find and compare themes, then move to longer chapter books.

Some skills your child will focus on in this unit are:

- Reading critical scenes (scenes of conflict) closely to make inferences
- Growing theories about characters and supporting them with text evidence
- Collecting key actions, reactions and changes in characters across a text
- Collaborating with peers to prove their thinking with evidence
- Providing written responses that justify their position
- Analyze the trouble in a fiction text to determine theme

Questions to consider asking your child:

- What is this text really about?
- How do authors teach readers about real people, problems, and life?
- How and why do readers discuss their thinking and questions with other readers?

Some books that may be shared in class are:

- *Each Kindness* by Woodson, Jacqueline
- *Fly Away Home* by Bunting, Eve
- *A Day's Work* by Bunting, Eve
- *Happy Like Soccer* by Boelts, Maribeth
- *Those Shoes* by Boelts, Maribeth
- *A Chair For My Mother* by Williams, Vera B.
- *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* by Mitchell, Margaret K.
- *White Socks Only* by Coleman, Evelyn
- *The Babe and I* by Adler, David A.

This unit will focus on conversing with peers about a specific text through the lens of social issues. Your child will learn to build upon conversations of his/her peers and agree/disagree respectfully. You can support your child by having similar conversations about the life lessons that characters and books teach us.