



Grade 5 Writing Unit 1- Narrative Craft

Welcome to Grade 5 writing! Your child will begin the year revisiting narrative writing and focusing on improving the quality of his/her writing. In this unit, your child will use strategies he/she has already learned and will set new narrative writing goals.

The skills your child will develop in this unit are:

- Applying a variety of strategies for generating narrative stories that are personally significant
- Setting goals for improving writing
- Making revisions that best communicate meaning
- Analyzing mentor texts and applying author's crafts to enhance own writing

Conversations to have with your child at home:

- If reading, ask one:
 - What do you notice about how the author told this story?
 - How did the author dramatize a scene in the text in order to engage you, the reader?
 - How might the theme be different if another character told the story?
- If your child is working on drafting or revising, ask one:
 - Tell me your story. What is your story really about? Listen. Talking about details helps the writer grow ideas.
 - What craft moves did you choose to include in your draft? How will your choices help you tell your story well? Appreciate your child's choices.
 - How are you using the Narrative Writing Checklist to help you work independently?

Some books your child may be sharing in class are:

- A variety of short stories
- When I Was Your Age: Original Stories About Growing Up by Amy Ehrlich
- Eleven and Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark: Two Short Stories by Sandra Cisneros

Talk to your child about his or her writing goals and encourage your child to write in his or her writer's notebook both at home and school about the people, places and moments that are most important. Your child will be using a writing checklist throughout the unit to inform his or her goal setting and reflection.