

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." - James Humes

October 2017

OCTOBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

This month we begin to shape our writing skills into a short story. The writing technique that students will learn is called *Exploded Moment*. This month they will focus on a significant moment in time and break it down using descriptive language, purposeful word choice, and authentic dialogue. At the beginning of November, students will edit and revise with their peers using the STAR strategy. Ask your student to share the moment they chose to focus upon.

This month, all sixth grade students are introduced to our *Accountable Talk Chart* which provides students phrases and tools to conduct an academic, student-led, group discussion. Students will

continue to use this chart, reinforcing respectful language and supporting statements with logical evidence, for the next six years. This is a lifelong skill-set we strive to develop in each and every student.

Accountable to the Learning Community	Listen	Summarize	Build
	Clarify	Support	Connect
	Challenge	Defend	Conclude

Short Story Recommendations

<i>Charles</i> by Shirley Jackson	Gr 6
<i>All Summer in a Day</i> by Ray Bradbury	Gr 7
<i>The Monkey's Paw</i> by W.W. Jacobs	Gr 8

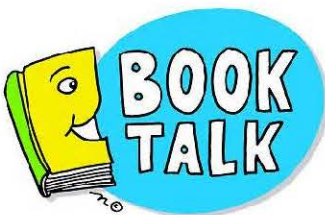
October MA ELA State Standards

- W.6.3 Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, pacing, and description to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- W.6.3a. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.
- SL.6.1a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of October as well.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

One way you can support your student this month is by helping him or her brainstorm significant moments in life. Did she score a goal to win the game? Did he perform his first solo? Did your child share a special moment with a loved one? The choice of subject matter will dictate the mood a piece of writing takes and how to approach the subject. Take some time to help your student remember the details of the chosen moment so that he or she can make writing come alive.



Community of Readers Celebration Dates:

- NMS: October 25, 2017
- SMS: November 2, 2017

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

c.tolpa@schoolsofwestfield.org
413-642-9318