

Unit 3 Newsletter

Folktales: The Fox's Foray

The Focus in Reading

In our third unit students will focus on reading and understanding traditional literature. Students will explore different versions of folktales. The oral debate and written opinion components will support students by expanding vocabulary, building comprehension, and developing higher level thinking.

Students will learn how to:

- *Identify character traits of the fox*
- *Explain how the "fox" is portrayed in tales*
- *Compare and contrast story and tale versions*

How Can You Help?

When reading a story with your child, identify their favorite character and discuss their traits (happy, sad, stubborn). Then ask them what the character said or did to make them think so. You can also talk about how some things in a book might be similar or different to another book. Comparing and contrasting literature will give your student a deeper understanding of what they are reading.

The Focus in Writing

Our young authors will be listening to and reading many folktales. In this unit opinion writing will be the focus. Writers will begin by writing an opinion of a folktale that has been read aloud. They will need to state their opinion, give evidence to support it, and in the closing restate their opinion.

Students will learn how to:

- *State (write) their opinion in an opening statement*
- *Give evidence from the text (story) to support their opinion*
- *Write a closing statement that re-states and verifies their opinion*
- *Define what an opinion is and why we need evidence and reasons to support it*

How can you help your child?

You can give your young student opportunities to give their opinion about just about anything but then to support it with reasons why! After reading a story ask, “Did you like the book?” Students can respond with, I liked the book or I didn’t like the book but they must give reasons why. A graphic organizer and grading rubric are available for you to view.

Wrap Up!

At the end of the unit students will be assessed (given a CEPA-Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessment) to evaluate their understanding of ideas presented to them. Students will participate in an oral discussion (debate) about the character of the fox. There will be a writing assessment. Students will write an opinion piece about the character of the fox using the graphic organizer to help them.