

Unit 6 Newsletter

Lessons Learned

The Focus in Reading

In our sixth and final unit students will focus on reading literature. Students will focus on retelling and identifying the central message of these books, thus building on retelling skills previously learned in our second unit. Students will learn to use evidence from the text to support their thinking around the lessons the author is teaching. The book Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes will be our mentor text, used and referred back to throughout the unit as a clear example and means of retelling and identifying the lesson learned through the character's experience.

Students will learn how to:

- *Identify the lesson learned*
- *Find evidence in the text that supports the lesson learned*
- *Retell the story from beginning to end with detail*

How can you help your child?

When you are reading a piece of traditional literature (a story) with your first grader, encourage them to think about the characters feelings. Ask your first grader how their characters' feelings might have changed from the beginning of the book to the end of the book. Ask what those characters might have learned by the end of the book and how they know that. This will help your child identify the lesson learned (what the author is trying to teach in the story).

The Focus in Writing

Our students will be focusing on writing personal narratives. They will learn how to add more detail to their narrative writing in order to keep their reader engaged. Students will also be focusing on writing about their own experiences and identifying times when they have learned a lesson.

Students will learn how to:

- *Compose a personal narrative with two or more detailed events*
- *Apply a lesson learned in their personal narrative*

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- *Revise and edit their writing*
- *Apply appropriate punctuation and capitalization*
- *Use conventional spelling*

How Can You Help?

In conversations with your child ask them to think about a time when they learned a lesson, when they learned to do or not do something. It could be an example like: running when they should not have and tripping, accidentally using unkind words and seeing how upset it made someone around them, or eating too much and getting a stomach ache. You might then ask them what they learned from that experience and how they know. These conversations can then be turned into writing.

Wrap up!

At the end of this unit students will be assessed (given a CEPA - Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessment). They will be asked to write a personal narrative with two or more sequenced events in which they learned a lesson. They must also provide the evidence of the lesson learned.