What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Your child's class will use Wit & Wisdom as our English Language Arts curriculum. Your student will read and respond to excellent fiction and nonfiction writing. They will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.

CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES

The third module is about Civil Rights Heroes. We will study strong and brave people who fought injustice. We will carefully read books and poems about Civil Rights. We will also explore art and think about how people respond to injustice.

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Nonfiction Picture Books
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington* by Frances E. Ruffin
- *I Have a Dream*, by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with paintings by Kadir Nelson
- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story* by Ruby Bridges
- *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh

Poem
- “Words Like Freedom” by Langston Hughes
- “Dreams” by Langston Hughes

OUR CLASS WILL LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH:

- “*Selma to Montgomery March, Alabama, 1965*” by James Karales

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THIS VIDEO:

- “Ruby Bridges Interview”
- “Civil Rights – Ruby Bridges”
- “The Man Who Changed America”
- “Sylvia Mendez and Sandra Mendez Duran”
- “The Freedom Singers Perform at the White House”

OUR CLASS WILL LISTEN TO THESE SONGS:

- “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around”
- “This Little Light of Mine”
- “America (My Country Tis of Thee)”

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- “Different Voices” by Anna Gratz Cockerille
- “When Peace Met Power” by Laura Helweg

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What injustices did people face before the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- What was Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream for the world?
- How did Ruby Bridges respond to injustice?
- How did the Mendez family respond to injustice?

VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word and how to use it in a sentence:

- march
- protest
- equally
- response
- impact
- speech
- states
- nation
- repetition
- freedom
- home
- dream
- faith
- liberty
- reject
- improve
- convince
- order
- hopeful
- anxious
- irritated
YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

Write an exploded moment narrative. An exploded moment narrative describes in slow motion a step by step picture for the reader. The narrative will include point of view, details about thoughts and feelings, action, and use of adjectives and adverbs.

The narrative will include:

- **Characters** (who is the story about)
- **Setting** (when and where the story takes place)
- **Problem** (the main character’s challenge)
- **Event** (what happens)
- **Resolution** (end of the problem)

AT HOME ACTIVITIES

**PHONICS:**

Your child is learning phonics skills, so they will become a strong reader. This activity will help them practice the phonics skills from their class.

**Fill in the blank**

- **Step 1:** Choose six words, for example: carpenter, porcupine, carton, number, morning, bakery and draw a box around them.
- **Step 2:** Come up with six sentences, but leave your selected words blank.
- **Step 3:** Have your child fill in the blank using the right words for the box of words you came up with.
- **Step 4:** Challenge! Make the words more difficult or have your child find six words in the dictionary and write sentences.

**Example:**

- My dog was struck by _________ quills.
- The _________ of milk is on the shelf.
- The _________ made a bench.
- Ten is an even _________.
- The cake is from the _________.
- The bird sang in the _________.

Check out mClass Home Connect for more great activities linked to your child’s learning!

LET’S TALK: Here is a way to talk with your child about what they are learning.

Ask your child:
• I know you have been learning about strong and brave people. Do you know anybody that is brave?
• Who do you think is brave?
• Have you ever felt like you had to be brave?
• Sometime kids fight injustice. What would you fight for?

WRITING: Your child is learning to write. They will write to express themselves and show what they have learned. Please try this writing activity at home.

I am a Superhero!

Pretend that you are a superhero. Have your child write answers to the following questions:

• Step 1: Ask your child to imagine they are a superhero.
• Step 2: Have your child write a story about being a superhero. They could write sentences to answer the following questions:
  • What is your superpower?
  • What problem is your superhero solving in your community?
  • What does your superhero do to find a solution to the problem in your community?
  • What does your superhero think about?
  • How does your superhero feel?

REMINDERS

• Ask your child’s teacher
  • For copies of their end of module tasks.
  • For their Amplify mClass Home Connect Letter.
  • What reading skills your child is working on.
  • Watch for your child’s report card and schedule your parent/teacher conference.
  • Check the City Schools calendar often for important dates/reminders.

Want to learn more?
Click here to read an article about Baltimore City Schools’ desegregation.

Want to read some books with your child at home?
These books will help them learn more about Civil Rights Heroes.

Biography
• Martin’s Big Words by Doreen Rappaport
• Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President by Ann Malaspina
• Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader, Legend by Justine & Ron Fuentes
• I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Historical Account
• Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney
• Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins by Carole Boston Weatherford
• The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko

Picture Books
• Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine
• Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass by Dean Robbins
• I Could Do That! Ester Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda Arms White
• A is for Abigail by Lynne Cheney
• The Listeners by Gloria Whelan

TIP: Find these books for free at your local Enoch Pratt Free Library!