Grade Four
Curriculum Narratives

Writing Units

Unit 1: Launching the Writing Workshop

Students will learn a number of strategies for generating personal narrative entries. They will learn that writers focus their stories and tell stories in scenes rather than summaries. Students will also learn that writers deliberately craft the leads and ending of their stories by studying published writing.

Unit 2: Narrative Writing

Students will continue to be introduced to a number of strategies for generating personal narrative entries and will learn to write from the narrator's point of view. They will learn to incorporate external actions and internal responses while also incorporating scenes from the past or future. Students will learn that writers don't just end stories, they resolve problems, learn lessons, and make changes to end them effectively.

Unit 3: Essays

Students will be introduced to the genre of essays by contrasting essay structures with the structure of narratives. Students will learn that writers need a sense of what they are aiming for in order to collect, elaborate on and structure their writing. In this unit, each student will write a personal essay in which he/she advances a theme of personal significance, arguing, for example, "It's hard being an only child," or claiming, "My dog is my best friend."

Unit 4: Realistic Fiction

Students will learn that fiction writers need to choose a seed idea and begin to develop characters by creating their external and internal traits. They will also learn that writers develop characters not only by telling about their motivations and struggles, but also by creating scenes that show these things. Students will learn to listen to their writing carefully, and then choose words, structures and punctuation that help them to convey the content, mood, tone, and feelings of the piece.

Unit 5: Poetry

Students will read and write poems in individual, critical and evaluative ways to explore the observations, feelings and ideas of other poets. Students will learn to express their own observations, feelings and ideas about their own lives and the world.

Unit 5: Literary Essays

Students will begin to understand that literary essayists ask, "What's this story really about?" and then analyze the ways the author deliberately crafts the story to convey this meaning. Students will learn

that literary essayists draw on their life experience to understand and develop ideas about texts. They will also learn ways to question and revise their theses as writers do; making sure each is supported by the whole text.

Reading Units

Unit 1: Launching Reader's Workshop

In this unit the reading workshop is launched. Teachers help students develop a love of reading, while introducing the routines, structures and habits of a rich reading workshop. Skills taught during this unit include, but aren't limited to, reading with fluency and stamina, monitoring for sense and retelling.

Unit 2: Character Study

During this unit students will learn how to walk in the characters' shoes, see the story through the characters' eyes, and glean facts about the character. Students will use these skills to develop theories about the characters and then learn to talk about those theories with others. Skills taught during this unit include, but aren't limited to, empathizing, envisioning, predicting, inferring and synthesizing.

Unit 3: Humor

The main goal of this unit is to help readers laugh at the funny parts in books. This means that students have to be able to "get the joke." In this unit students will learn to notice patterns in humorous texts, see the signals authors give when something is supposed to be funny, and overall, enjoy humorous texts. Skills taught in this unit include, but aren't limited to, critical reading, questioning, inferring and interpreting.

Unit 4: Nonfiction

This unit teaches readers to focus on text structure. Students learn that most expository nonfiction has a central idea and supporting evidence. In addition, students learn that narrative nonfiction focuses on the goals and struggles of a central character. During the final stages of the unit, students will use what they have learned to research a topic of their choice. Skills taught during this unit include, but aren't limited to, predicting, determining importance, using context clues, finding the main idea, building fluency, research skills and synthesizing.

Unit 5: Historical Fiction

Throughout this unit students will read historical fiction texts, while learning to keep track of multiple plotlines, unfamiliar characters and shifts in time and place. Students will also learn to develop their own ideas about the characters and themes found within the stories. This work will be down within book clubs and the texts used will focus on a particular era in history. Skills taught during this unit include, but aren't limited to, perspective, interpreting, synthesizing, figurative language, symbolism and theme.

Unit 6: Fantasy:

The obvious purpose of this unit is to get kids excited about fantasy. Fantasy books are mostly about the struggle between good and evil. However, the fantasy genre is extremely complex. Therefore, the underlying purpose of this unit is to help students become more powerful readers of complex texts. Skills taught in this unit include, but aren't limited to, setting, metaphors, theme, interpreting, critical reading and symbolism.

Unit 7: Traditional Literature

In this unit, students will learn the characteristics of fairytales, folktales, fables, and myths. Students will then use what they have learned about these traditional stories to deepen their understanding of contemporary characters and stories. Skills taught in this unit include, but aren't limited to, understanding archetypes, recognizing story structure, antecedents and allegory.

Math

Unit 1: Naming and Constructing Geometric Figures

- Students will:
  - familiarize themselves with the Student Reference Book,
  - practice using geometry tools,
  - classify quadrangles,
  - explore and identify polygons, and
  - review and practice addition and subtraction facts.

Unit 2: Using Numbers and Organizing Data

- Students will:
  - examine different uses and equivalent names of numbers,
  - review the base-ten place-value system,
  - review procedures for addition and subtraction of multidigit whole numbers, and
  - extend their ideas about data collection, organization, display and analysis.

Unit 3: Multiplication and Division; Number Sentences and Algebra

- Students will:
  - review strategies for solving multiplication facts,
  - work towards instant recall of the multiplication facts,
  - practice interpreting data, measuring length, and using a map scale,
  - practice solving number stories, and
  - practice with number sentences and open sentences.

Unit 4: Decimal and Their Uses

- Students will:
  - extend the base-ten place-value system to decimals,

- review and extend basic concepts, notation, and applications for decimals,
- extend whole-number methods of addition and subtraction to decimals, and
- review relationships among metric units of length.

Unit 5: Big Numbers, Estimation, and Computation

- Students will:
  - extend basic multiplication facts and review the basic principles of multiplication of multi-digit numbers,
  - practice estimating and decide when estimation is appropriate,
  - review and practice with partial-products algorithm and the lattice method for multiplication, and
  - practice reading, writing, and comparing large numbers.

Unit 6: Division; Map Reference Frames; Measure of Angles

- Students will:
  - practice solving multiplication and division number stories,
  - be introduced to the division algorithm and the concept of remainders as fractions or decimals,
  - practice drawing, measuring, and naming angles, and
  - be introduced to latitude and longitude and utilize letter-number pairs and ordered pairs on a grid system.

Unit 7: Fractions and Their Uses; Chance and Probability

- Students will:
  - review fractions as part of a whole, fractions on number lines, and uses of factions,
  - order factions and find fractional parts of sets and regions,
  - practice identifying equivalent fractions, and
  - review basic ideas of probability and compare predicted and actual results.

Unit 8: Perimeter and Area

- Students will:
  - review perimeter and area concepts,
  - develop formulas as mathematical models for the areas of rectangles, parallelograms, and triangles, and
  - explore applications of area with scale drawings.

Fractions, Decimals, and Per cents

- Students will:
  - practice naming equivalencies among fractions, decimals, and per cents,
  - rank and compare data reported as per cents, and
  - be introduced to multiplication and division of decimals by whole numbers.

- **Unit 10: Reflections and Symmetry**
    - Students will:
        - discover the basic properties of reflections,
        - practice with the application of reflections, rotations, and translations, and
        - be introduced to addition involving negative integers.

- **Unit 11: 3-D Shapes, Weight, Volume, and Capacity**
    - Students will:
        - review grams and ounces as units of weight,
        - identify geometric solids,
        - review concepts and units of capacity and volume, and
        - be introduced to subtraction involving positive and negative integers.

- **Unit 12: Rates**
    - Students will:
        - be introduced to rates,
        - practice collecting and comparing rate data, and
        - practice comparing unit prices and identifying information needed for comparison shopping

Science

Measurement

Students will:

- use simple tools such as spring scales and balances to aid in data collection while measuring the weight and mass of objects
- discover the need for standard units of measurement
- make accurate measurements of volumes of liquids using the appropriate units of milliliters and liters
- make accurate linear measurements using meters and centimeters
- will observe, quantify, compare, and record measurements of everyday objects using metric units

Energy, Electricity and Magnetism

Students will:

- identify heat and electricity as forms of energy
- explain the difference between static and current electricity
- construct and trace the power path of electricity in a simple circuit
- explain how a switch or gap in a circuit affects the flow of electricity

- compare objects and materials that conduct or insulate electric flow
- plan and conduct an experiment with electromagnets
- use a simple circuit to create light, sound or heat
- design and create a project that uses a simple circuit with a switch, ex. Flashlight or lighthouse model

Changes in the Earth's Surface (Land and Water)

Students will:

- identify, compare and contrast materials that make up the Earth
- identify the four layers of the earth
- recognize that rocks are made of minerals
- investigate the various natural weather events that cause changes in the earth's surface
- explain how weathering and erosion make changes in the earth's surface
- explain how an animal from long ago survived based on evidence from a fossil
- review and deepen understanding of the water cycle
- describe the properties of water as a solid, liquid and gas
- locate places water is found on earth
- using a modified stream table, investigate the effects of moving water on land

Natural Resources

Students will:

- explain the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources
- give examples of how humans can reduce, reuse and recycle
- describe the different human effects on the environment
- name common objects and fuels that can be made from earth materials

Order and Organization: Animal Life Cycles

The students will:

- explore the life cycle stages of living things (frog, ladybug, praying mantis) that undergo metamorphosis
- describe the adaptations, habitats and characteristics that make these living organisms unique
- illustrate and explain examples of food chains and food webs
- demonstrate an understanding of a balanced ecosystem
- create and evaluate a graph given a set of data
- explain using evidence the possible reasons for animal endangerment specifically the amphibian populations
- understand the effects of humans on wetland habitats

Social Studies

Unit 1: Foundations in Social Studies

Students will learn about the four disciplines that are the focus of social studies: history, geography, government, and economics. Students begin the unit by using a familiar context, Michigan and its people, to review the questions historians ask. They then expand their lenses to those of geographers, political scientists, and economist to examine the United States.

Unit 2: The United States in Spatial Terms

Students will explore the United States through the social studies discipline of geography. They will first learn about the location of the United States by using a variety of geographic tools such as maps, globes, and satellite images to answer the question "Where is the United States?" Next, students will examine the physical and human characteristics of the United States. Students will also use the concept of regions to compare sections of the United States.

Unit 3: Human Geography

Students will explore the United States through the lens of human geography with a focus on the themes of movement and human/environment interaction. Using literature and primary sources, they will study push and pull factors of migration and the influence of migration on culture within the United States. Through both historical and current examples students will explore ways people have used, adapted to, and modified various environments in the U.S.

Unit 4: Exploring Economics

Students will deepen their understanding of economic principles and examine how an economic system works using the United States as an example. Students will then explore the characteristics of market economies and the types of questions economists ask. Using a circular flow model, students will examine how households and businesses interact in a market economy. Finally, students will investigate the role of global competition on the economy and employment in the United States.

Unit 5: Our Federal Government

Students will learn how the United States government works. Students will investigate how the powers of the federal government are limited through the systems of separation of powers and checks and balances, and compare those to state government. Students will extend their understanding of limited government by exploring key concepts such as popular sovereignty, rule of law, and the Bill of Rights.

Unit 6: Rights and Responsibilities

Students will explore the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. They will learn how government affects their daily lives and explore why rights have limits. Students will also study the relationship between rights and responsibilities and also the need for citizens to be informed about public issues.