



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Thank you for a great first six weeks filled with wonderful discussions, insights, and stories! Watching our students' imaginations come alive on paper and in the classroom was an encouraging and exciting way to start the year, and we know they will only continue to grow as readers and writers.

In this second unit students will improve their ability to comprehend, analyze, and discuss complex texts. They will read fiction, poetry, and historical texts closely while paying attention to details that help them develop complex inferences. Students will also notice patterns, archetypes, and themes; they should start to understand that archetypes are in every text because these same archetypes are present in our world. This unit of study aims to help students develop into powerful readers of complex and varied texts through thinking, writing, and talking about their reading. Students will have the opportunity to make complex inferences and connections among fiction, poetry, and historical texts; they will also analyze the variety of strategies that authors use to create meaning. The goal of writing about their reading is to lift the level of thinking while reading so that the quality and purpose of their writing about reading is increased. In order to gain a deeper understanding of writer's craft, students will also complete a variety of writing tasks that will help them build their writing skills and gain a deeper understanding of the texts they read.

During the second six weeks, our students will have two writing assessments that will be given before and after each writing unit. Teachers will continue using these assessments to drive instructional decisions, measure growth in writing, and to evaluate their students' ability to transfer the skills that have been taught to independent writing tasks. The first writing assessment will be administered at the beginning of the unit (10/3-10/7) and the second writing assessment will be administered at the end of the unit (10/31-11/7). The second assessment will be graded using a common standards-based rubric. Students will also complete a common reading assessment in the middle of the unit (10/19-10/26).

Please continue to review your student's performance via Skyward Access, and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 9th Grade ELA Teachers