

What a Character!

HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about story characters and what makes them unique, with a focus on the realistic fiction genre. We will read texts about interesting characters who are true to themselves when faced with a challenge. Children will also write an expository essay about how authors make their characters interesting to readers.

BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is realistic fiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Tell about characters who are unique, just like your child.
- Reflect problems or concerns that your child may recognize or need to confront.

Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

The Big Idea Reinforce the topic words *individuality*, *unique*, *feature*, and *personality* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What is one way you are **unique**? Describe a **feature** that you look for in a friend.

What Does It Mean? Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

Word Hunt Look for words with the prefixes *mis-*, *un-*, and *non-* and the suffixes *-ful* and *-less* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.