

## Unit 4 Rationale

### WHY THE ADVENTURES OF DON QUIXOTE UNIT IS IMPORTANT

This unit examines the fiction genre through a classic novel, Don Quixote. Students will focus on character and plot, as well as on literary elements such as characterization, while reading a full-length adapted version of Don Quixote. It is important for students in the upper-elementary grades to be able to read longer works of fiction and be able to trace the development of plot, characters, and literary elements over the course of a novel; this unit will provide students that opportunity. In addition, this adapted version of Don Quixote, written by Miguel de Cervantes during the Renaissance, a period in European history that students will study in the next unit, will expose students to the timeless aspects of the classic novel such as the quixotic nature of the primary character, the relationship between Don Quixote and his sidekick, Sancho Panza, and episodes such as the one involving windmills. Students will also read extended excerpts from another adapted version of Adventures of Don Quixote that contains richer, more complex vocabulary and syntax. Students will be able to compare and contrast this more challenging adaptation with the primary text used in this unit.