

Learning Overview: Week of December 16th - 20th

English Language Arts:

Novel Study: *The One and Only Ivan*

- **Learning Goals:** In this novel study, students will explore *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, a heartfelt story about a captive gorilla who discovers the power of friendship, art, and hope. Through engaging activities and discussions, students will develop their reading comprehension, critical thinking, and empathy while learning about themes like kindness, perseverance, and the importance of treating animals with respect. This unit will also include cross-curricular connections to science and social-emotional learning, making it a well-rounded and meaningful experience.

Math:

Unit 3- Multi-Digit Addition & Subtraction

Unit 3 reviews and extends students' thinking about place value, multi-digit addition and subtraction, and problem-solving. In the first module, students are introduced to the idea of rounding 2- and 3-digit numbers to the nearest ten and the nearest hundred. This skill is extended into the realm of computation, as students use rounding to estimate and check the results of adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. Along with reviewing and deepening their understanding of strategies learned in second grade, students are introduced to the standard algorithms for adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers toward the end of the unit.

*To better understand some strategies your student will learn, please visit [Bridges Math for Families](#).

**You can also find practice and supplementary activities on the [Bridges: Math At Home](#) website.

Module 4 Exploring the Algorithms for Addition & Subtraction

Learning Goals: In this module, the teacher introduces the standard algorithms (also known as the regrouping method) for addition and subtraction. Although students aren't expected to master these algorithms until fourth grade, the activities in this module serve to demystify them. Students are invited to compare the standard algorithms with other methods and strategies they have developed and learned, and consider when each is best deployed. In Session 5, students take the Unit 3 Post-Assessment.

Religion:

Catholic Teacher's Resources - Mass Videos 1-10

- **Learning Goals:** The Mass Series is designed to assist in explaining the Mass to students. Each video, is accompanied by pre- and post-video activities.

The Jesse Tree

- **Learning Goals:** During Advent, students will explore the coming of Christ through daily scripture readings, discussions, and prayer. Each day, we will read a Bible passage that connects to Jesus' birth, share our thoughts, and reflect on its meaning in our lives. After our reflection, we will pray and focus on a corresponding Jesse Tree ornament representing the day's scripture.

Science:

Unit: Circle of Life

In this unit, students compare and contrast the life cycles of both animals and plants. Students create models to build an understanding that all organisms share certain stages in their life cycles: birth, growth, reproduction, and death. Students also explore how an understanding of life cycles can aid in solving problems that occur when there are too many or too few organisms in a particular environment.

Culminating Poster (Continued)

- **Learning Goals:** For their culminating project, students will create an educational poster comparing and contrasting the life cycles of a plant and an animal, highlighting their shared stages of birth, growth, reproduction, and death. The poster will include diagrams, a comparison section, and an explanation of how understanding life cycles can help solve real-world problems, such as population imbalances. Students will present their posters to the class, demonstrating their knowledge and creativity in showcasing the importance of life cycles.

Social Studies:

Unit- American Heroes

- **Learning Goals:** Students will learn about American heroes who positively impacted their communities. We'll explore inspiring individuals who worked to improve schools, living conditions, and opportunities for workers, families, women, and students. Through stories and activities, students will understand the

values of perseverance, kindness, and leadership embodied by these heroes and how their efforts continue to influence our lives.

Accelerated Reader (A.R.):

- **Goals:** Students should practice pace, prosody, and accuracy when reading books within their AR level. They *must complete one book and a comprehension quiz every two weeks, for a total of six books per trimester.*