

# Eighth Grade Reading

## Characterization and Author's Craft

- **Focus Question of this Unit:** How can thinking deeply about characters and the author's craft impact my life and relationships?
  - **Part I:** How can I develop ideas about the main characters in a novel but also about the minor characters, and justify those ideas with evidence from across the text?
  - **Part II:** How can I analyze factors (elements of a story or drama) that influence and complicate the central characters, such as the significance of the setting, plot, etc., and the pressures that are exerted on characters?
  - **Part III:** How can I read in such a way that I discern the issues, lessons, and themes that characters, plot and setting suggest, and develop theories about how the author develops those issues, lessons, and themes?
  - **Part IV:** How can I employ an interpretive lens through multiple texts?

## Supporting Your Reader at Home

- Help your child understand the difference between struggle and frustration.
- Discuss with your child what he or she is learning instead of what he or she is doing.
- Talk about what you and your child are reading.
- Have books, magazines and newspapers available in the home.
- Set aside some time each day for reading rather than watching television.
- Encourage summer reading of high interest materials.
- Take family visits to the public library.
- Give your child books as gifts.
- Use the Internet to research and read information of use to your family.

## Reading Standards

- Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.