



5PA is a WONDERFUL group this year! We will spend this final year of elementary school preparing for our transition for middle school. We will spend time reading a variety of texts, and having opportunities to reflect on our reading and defending our opinions and perspectives. You will find below some of the items we have been working on so far this school year:

- We are working on reading material that will challenge us to grow as readers, including chapter books that help us create our own imagery. Students spend about 10-15 minutes most days of the week reading their chapter/informational book of choice. During this time, I observe the students and how they attend to their reading. I am pleased with the overall progress the kids have made at building their reading stamina and endurance. We have enjoyed sharing a variety of genres during our First Chapter Friday reads. As we listen, we doodle what we see and then we create a piece of writing related to a current area of focus.
- Writing is done most days of the week, as time allows. Reflecting on our reading and learning how to create an organized and elaborate piece of writing is a main focus at this time.
- Reflecting on reading through discussion is a skill we will do throughout the year and in many ways. 5PA has worked on how to analyze a piece of

literature using the framework of Depth and Complexity. This is an important resource to focus our thinking during reading.

- Creativity is a skill that needs to be learned and developed over time. We will work on strengthening it through practice in a variety of ways. This is a skill that will be used for the rest of a student's life in myriad areas, including the workplace, at home, and at school. It helps with problem-solving and increasing efficiency in life!
- Grammar skills will be worked on throughout the school year. We have started with a basic review/understanding of the 8 parts of speech and will continue to revisit and work on identifying each of these in "mentor sentences." Grammar is a way for us to think about our language and apply it appropriately in speaking and writing. We think about how language is organized and the function specific words have in sentences. Students who are new to PA this year should take time to study the resources on Google Classroom (see below).
- Google Classroom is an important part of our studies. It is a place for resources and assignments to be stored for study and work and reading to be documented and revisited. Please be sure to check in with your child if they have any outstanding work to complete. Also, please remind your child to check out the Language Resources section that holds many helpful documents about things we have studied and will be studying.

UPCOMING: SPA will continue to explore the foundations of Depth and Complexity and how to apply the understandings to deepen the quality of our reading. We will dive into our first longer story, "The Hemulen Who Loved Silence" and explore the concepts of conflict and systems. Students will have many opportunities to write about and discuss our thinking in both small and large groups, including the use of Socratic Seminars.