iLit Family Letter

Grade 6, Unit 4

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

In Unit 4 of the iLit program, your child is engaged in many learning activities that support mastery of the English Language Development Standards (ELD Standards) and the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (CCSS for ELA). The ELD Standards and the CCSS for ELA are aligned. Accordingly, aligned ELD Standards and CCSS for ELA for this unit of instruction are cited together in parentheses within this letter. ELD Standards are cited first, and CCSS for ELA second.*

During Unit 4 students read the novel *Don't Call Me Hero* by Ray Villareal (PI.6.6; RL.6.10). This novel tells the story of Rawly Sanchez. His life is not going well. His mom's restaurant might close, his brother is in jail, and he is spending his Saturdays studying algebra. But everything changes when he saves a famous young model from drowning. Rawly becomes a hero in his school and town. As a result, everyone wants to be his friend, even the popular quarterback and the most beautiful girl in school. But, do they really want to be his friends? As students read this story that touches on themes of true friendship and loyalty, they are asked to consider this question: *Why do we take risks?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.6.6; RL.6.10, RI.6.10) in Unit 4. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.4.6; RL.6.1, RI.6.1); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.6.6; L.6.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.6.12; L.6.6); and demonstrate an understanding of nouns and noun phrases (PII.6.4), word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.6.8; L.6.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.6.7; L.6.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.6.11; W.6.1, L.6.1), and identify text structure (PII.6.1; RI.6.5). Students also write an argumentative essay (PI.6.10; W.6.1) and present and revise their essay (PI.6.9; SL.6.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.6.1, PI.6.5; SL.6.1).

To support your child's learning during this unit, here are some suggestions for at-home activities:

- To help your child expand his or her thinking about the unit theme, discuss why people take risks. Talk about some risks your child has taken, for example taking a new class, speaking in front of an audience, inviting somebody to the movies, trying a new sport, or participating in a competition.
- Ask your child about the book that he or she is currently reading during independent reading time, including the reasons why your child chose the book. You may then wish to take your child to the local public library to find books on the same topic or by the same author.
- During this unit, your child will be writing an argumentative essay. Ask what the topic of your child's essay is and what his or her opinion is on the issue. Also ask your child to state the reasons that support that opinion. Offer one or two counterarguments and encourage your child to consider how to respond to them in writing.

Thank you for your support of your child's learning.

Sincerely,

*To read the cited English Language Development Standards, please refer to the ELD Standards document for your child's grade, which you can access using this link: https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx

To read the cited Common Core State Standards for ELA, please refer to the document "Common Core State Standards, English Language Arts and Literary/History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects." You can use the following link to access the document: http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/

iLit inspireLiteracy

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