iLit Family Letter

Grade 8, Unit 2

Dear Parent or Caregiver:

In Unit 2 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 2, students read the novel *Accidental Love* by award-winning author Gary Soto (PI.8.6; RL.8.10). This novel tells the story of Marissa, a hot-tempered 14-year-old Hispanic girl. By accident, Marissa meets Rene, a "wimpy" boy who attends a good high school. Marissa transfers to Rene's school. Despite their different personalities they are drawn to each other. They even audition for the play, Romeo and Juliet. Marissa and Rene face obstacles that threaten their friendship. As students read this romantic and humorous story, they explore this question: *How do we reach beyond barriers*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.8.6; RL.8.10, RI.8.10) in Unit 2. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they determine the theme, identify characters, setting, and plot of a text, cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.8.6; RL.8.1, RI.8.1); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.8.6; L.8.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.8.12; L.8.6); and demonstrate an understanding of verbs and verb phrases (PII.8.3), word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.8.8; L.8.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.8.7; L.8.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.8.11; W.8.1, L.8.1), and identify text structure (PII.8.5; RI.8.5). Students also write a narrative essay (PI.8.10; W.8.3) and tell a story to an audience (PI.8.9; SL.8.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.8.1, PI.8.5; SL.8.1).

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 tasks your child might consider challenges. Talk about the things your child could do to face and overcome those challenges.
- At the end of each week, ask your child to identify the new words he or she has learned. Encourage your child to use the words in sentences of his or her own.
- During this unit, your child will be writing a narrative essay. Ask about your child's essay, including who the characters are, what the setting is, and what the problem or conflict is at the heart of the story. Inquire about why your child selected this particular story to write about.

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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