# iLit Family Letter

**Grade 4, 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 award-winning novel *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo (PI.4.6; RL.4.10). This novel tells the story of a girl named Opal, who adopts a stray dog that she names after the Winn-Dixie grocery store in which she finds him. Opal has just moved to town and discovers that Winn-Dixie is a great help in making new friends. As students read this warm and gentle story, they explore this question: *Where do animals belong in our world?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.4.6; RL.4.10, RI.4.10) in Unit 2. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.4.6; RL.4.1, RI.4.1); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.4.6; L.4.4); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.4.12; L.4.6); and demonstrate an understanding of verbs and verb phrases (PII.4.3), figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.4.8; L.4.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.4.7; L.4.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.4.11; W.4.1, L.4.1), and identify text structure (PII.4.1, RI.4.5). Students also write a narrative essay (PI.4.10; W.4.3) and tell a story to an audience (PI.4.9; SL.4.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.4.1, PI.4.5; SL.4.1).

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

- Ask your child to retell the portion of *Because of Winn-Dixie* or another text that was read aloud in class. As your child retells the story or shares information in a text, ask questions to clarify points that are confusing or seem to be missing from the retelling.
- To help your child expand his or her thinking about the unit theme, discuss the types of animals that live in your area and their habitats. Talk about how people in your community interact with these animals.
- 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.

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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