iLit Family Letter

Grade 7, 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 *Ask Me No Questions*, a novel by Marina Budhos that has won multiple awards (PI.7.6; RL.7.10). The novel is narrated by 14-year-old Nadira Hossain. She tells the story of her family. She and her family are Bangladeshi immigrants living in New York, although their visas have expired. They hope to stay in the United States, but many things change after 9/11. They try to cross the border and look for asylum in Canada. Canada rejects them, and Nadira's father is sent to a detention center. Nadira and her sister take it upon themselves to save their father. In the process, Nadira and her family face questions about identity and belonging. As students read this compelling story, they are asked to reflect on this question: *What does it take to survive?*

Students also read many short fiction and nonfiction texts (PI.7.6; RL.7.10, RI.7.10) in Unit 4. As they read and discuss the unit literature, they cite textual evidence that supports analysis of the texts (PI.7.6; RL.7.1, RI.7.1); use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words (PI.7.6; L.7.4); summarize texts, (RL.7.2); acquire and use grade-appropriate vocabulary (PI.7.12; L.7.6); and demonstrate an understanding of verbs and verb phrases, nouns and noun phrases, adverbs (PII.7.3, PII.7.4, PII.7.5), figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning (PI.7.8; L.7.5).

In addition, students evaluate language choices (PI.7.7; L.7.1), choose words to support their opinions (PI.7.11; W.7.1, L.7.1), and identify text structure (PII.7.1; RI.7.5). Students also write an argumentative essay (PI.7.10; W.7.1) and present their essay to an audience (PI.7.9; SL.7.4). In addition, they engage in collaborative discussions on a variety of topics, including the ideas they encounter in the unit literature (PI.7.1, PI.7.5; SL.7.1)

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

- Ask your child to retell a portion of *Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Budhos or another text that was read aloud in your child's iLit 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.
- 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 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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