



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear Families,

Thank you for a great first six weeks filled with wonderful discussions, insights, and stories! Watching our students' imaginations come alive on paper was an encouraging and exciting way to start the year, and we know they will only continue to grow as readers and writers.

In this second unit, your students will be more engaged in independent reading. They will learn to make inferences about characters' motivations, desires, and emotional states as well as to analyze the impact of setting on the story as a whole. Students will continue working on their skills of how to pay close attention as they read, assuming that all details matter, accumulating and synthesizing a tremendous amount of information. Readers will benefit from the intellectual support of their peers through collaborative conversations and book clubs.

Students will also sharpen their analytical skills, learning to read more closely, analyze more deeply, and articulate more clearly the inferences they make about texts through their work in writing. At the end of this unit, students will be able to write as readers—to write powerfully about a topic and text and to leave the unit with a connection to reading.

During the second six weeks, students will write a process paper on how authors create theme through the use of various elements such as character, point of view, setting, conflict, plot, and symbolism. Students will learn how to write a well-developed literary analysis essay with an engaging introduction, a well-developed body, and a meaningful conclusion. Students will also learn how to use textual evidence and examples to support a meaningful thesis. This essay will be graded using a common standards-based rubric. Students will also complete a common reading assessment during the unit.

Please continue to review your student's performance via Skyward Access, and contact his or her teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 8th Grade ELAR Teachers