Dear Families,

With only one more grading period remaining for this school year, we want to thank you for all of your support and encouragement! This has truly been a fantastic school year brimming with creativity, growth, insight, and maturity. By the end of this grading period, we feel confident that your student will have the skills necessary to be successful in their future high school English classes and real-world challenges.

During this unit, students will analyze a novel, either *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls or *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald to develop their understanding of how authors use specific literary devices to create meaning and develop theme. They will also continue developing a repertoire of strategies for comprehending, analyzing, and discussing the ways authors of literary texts use point of view, character changes, and setting to develop the meaning of a work as a whole.Students will compare and contrast purposes, attitudes, and themes across both literary and informational texts.

Students will also be developing a deeper understanding of author's craft as they write their own literary or informational choice pieces over a significant theme in the novel. This task will support them in building their multi modal writing skills while also developing a greater appreciation for the texts they read. Students will write to develop meaning of the work as a whole and thematic ideas by using literary or informational elements to express their ideas about a topic.

Students will have a writing assessment that will be given after the writing unit. The writing assessment will focus on skills specific to college entrance exams such as the ACT, SAT, and TSI.  Students will wrap up their wok on test prep strategies.

We encourage you to speak with your students about what they are reading, writing, and learning in class. Be sure to continually review their performance via Skyward Access.

Thank you again for a wonderful year.

Respectfully,

EMS-ISD 11th Grade ELA Teachers