

Toys

In this module, students will use their love of toys and sense of wonder to **dive into multicultural narratives** and **explore how toys differ around the world**. Through the investigation of toys, students will **compare and contrast cultures** and will learn to **use Venn Diagrams and other graphic organizers**. As their vocabulary and understanding increases, students will transfer their knowledge to **write procedures and instructions** for the different toys. Students will also **design a toy for their own culture** and will **write the accompanying instructions**.

Superheroes

In this module, students will **read about superheroes of all shapes and sizes**. Through the use of mentor texts, they will **learn about character development** and the **varied ways authors describe them**, such as **expanding on each character's unique attributes** and **providing action details**. Through this process, students' descriptive vocabulary will grow as they **learn different techniques for bringing characters to life**. Students will apply what they have learned as they **create their own dynamic superhero characters**.

Communities

In this module, students will **investigate who is in their own community, the diversity around us, and the countless ways people support each other and the environment.** As writers, they will **review the different types of writing** (descriptive, narrative, informative, persuasive) and **gain a deeper understanding of which text type fits which audience and purpose.** Through **guided readings,** students will **practice inferential thinking skills** that will prepare them for the next step of reading challenging texts.

Science Fiction

Nobody knows for certain what the future will hold, but science fiction authors love to speculate. In this module, students will **examine mentor texts to learn how authors and illustrators bring unknown settings and characters to life**. Students will then flex their creative powers and **write their own sci-fi short stories**. As readers, they will move past basic comprehension skills to pick up on the clues authors leave and **make inferences about the characters' feelings, thoughts, and motivations**.

World Wonders

In this module, students will take a trip around the globe as they **learn about the many natural and manmade wonders that exist**. They will **read a range of nonfiction texts** about the world wonders and the cultures that surround them. They will **practice critical reading skills** and **summarizing informative texts**. The students will **utilize the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing framework** as they become the authors and apply what they have learned to **write carefully organized, thoughtful expository pieces** that **use intriguing sentence structures** to clearly present their ideas. The vocabulary focus for this unit will be on **Latin and Greek prefixes and roots** and **how to use morphology to define unknown words**.

Choose Your Own Adventure

In this module, students will look at the exciting genres of adventure and fantasy. Students will **read excerpts from classic novels** in order to **practice analyzing characters** and to learn how authors use intrigue, suspense, and other **writer's crafts to build anticipation and hook the reader**. They will **use a number of different graphic organizers** to structure their thinking and drafts before becoming the writer and **creating adventure stories that include a range of author's craft techniques**. As students read different challenging moments that characters have overcome, they will also be **challenged to reflect on adventures or obstacles they have faced** as they **learn about resilience and self-reflection**.

Current Events

News and the media are ubiquitous elements in our lives and impact us in myriad ways. In this module, students will wade into the world of current events as they **practice important thinking, reading, and writing strategies**. As thinkers, they will **expand their media literacy skills** in order to **critically analyze and deconstruct information they read and see**. As readers, they will **learn key strategies that will help them understand and analyze** any article or nonfiction piece, and as writers they will apply what they have learned as they **research, organize, draft, revise, and publish their own articles**.

The Making of a Mystery

In this module, students will use the exciting genre of mysteries to **push their creativity, deductive reasoning, and critical thinking skills**. Mysteries are the perfect vehicle for **practicing all the higher level reader and writer strategies that students need to master**. They will be challenged to notice the tiny clues and details in stories and the world around them in order to **make inferences and draw conclusions**. Writing mysteries is even more demanding as students have to **carefully plan and make deliberate author's craft choices** that will engage their readers and make for the perfect “who done

it?”.

Module A

4 January - 21 March

Module B

24 March - 6 June