



Dear Families,

We are getting reading to launch our next unit of study in Reading Workshop. This unit of study will focus on meeting the characters in books and studying what they do. Our aim is to help kids turn their focus to comprehension, and especially to the different characters they will be meeting in books. You'll help your child think about the characters as people and get to know them. The story lines in many of the books may be simple. There are not necessarily problems in the text of all the books. It will often be the illustrations that can help readers do most of their inferring. This can lead children to storytell (and to retell) their stories which will help support literal comprehension. Below is a list of strategies to help your child bring their characters to life.

- **Readers ask themselves how I am like/unlike my character.**
- **Readers think of characters in other books that remind them of this character.**
- **Readers keep track of what the main character is doing and predicts what they will do next.**
- **Readers use the pictures to imagine what the character is thinking/feeling.**
- **Readers retell the things their characters did throughout the whole story.**
- **Readers notice if their characters change.**
- **Readers ask themselves if they would be friends with their characters.**
- **Readers learn new things about their characters by rereading.**

We hope these strategies give your some suggestions while reading with your child. By getting to know their characters, your child will feel engaged and excited about the books they hold!

Sincerely,
The First Grade Teachers