

GK U2

Dear Kindergarten Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Every Story Has Characters

Key Concepts:

- Being helpful and hard-working are two important character traits.
- We can appreciate other people more when we understand their perspectives.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Phonemic Awareness● Letters s, t, r, f, h, b, n, w, p, l● HFW: the, we, go, see	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Identify and describe characters, setting, and major events● Identify the author and illustrator● Compare and contrast characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Draw and write narrative texts related to the reading● Plural nouns● Question words

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: www.fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading and listening to texts, and demonstrate comprehension through speaking and writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
- Talk about the texts your child read at school.
- Try some of the daily activities from the calendar.
- <https://mclass.amplify.com/homeconnect/>

G1 U2

Dear Grade 1 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Many Kinds of Characters

Key Concepts:

- Stories of all kinds, including fairy tales, fables, fantasies, and realistic fiction, have characters who face challenges.
- Stories can teach us that families and communities work best when people make responsible choices and help one another.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonemic Awareness• Sounds: /ě/, /ŭ/, l blends,• Word Families: -ug, -up, -un, -ob, -ot, -ock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and describe characters, setting, and major events through story details and illustrations• Compare and contrast characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write a narrative text based on a text from the unit• Singular and plural nouns with matching verbs

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: www.fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading and listening to texts, and demonstrate comprehension through speaking and writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
- Talk about the texts your child read at school.
- Try some of the daily activities from the calendar.
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G2 U2

Dear Grade 2 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Characters Facing Challenges

Key Concepts:

- All stories, whether traditional or modern, have characters who face problems.
- Characters in stories face problems caused by internal and external challenges.
- Readers can build knowledge about solving problems in the real world by looking at how characters face challenges in stories.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonemic Awareness• Long o, long e, long i vowel team syllable patterns• Plurals -s, and -es	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recount stories to determine the central message or moral• Describe how characters respond to events or challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write an opinion text about characters and use evidence• Use complete sentences• Use apostrophes

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading and listening to texts, and demonstrate comprehension through speaking and writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
- Talk about the texts your child read at school.
- Try some of the daily activities from the calendar.
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G3 U2

Dear Grade 3 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Ways Characters Shape Stories

Key Concepts:

- Writers tell traditional tales including fables, tall tales, myths, and folktales; these tales carry important messages and lessons for readers.
- Every action has a consequence, and a story's plot is shaped by the actions of its characters.
- Readers can learn from characters' actions and their consequences.
- People who think about the consequences of their actions can make caring and constructive decisions.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long e spelled e_e, ea, ee, ey, y, ie, e)• Long i spelled i_e, igh, y, ie, i• Compound words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recount story details and parts of a story• Describe character actions• Compare and contrast story plots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write an opinion text about characters and use evidence• Adjectives and adverbs• Past and future tense verbs

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Student Literacy Progress:

In this Unit, your child completed the following assessments.

- **Benchmark Unit 2 Assessment:** *This assessment measures how they are progressing with applying their knowledge of grade-level standards to new texts that they read independently. Unit assessments include both reading and writing questions. Your child's results on this assessment can be viewed in Benchmark Universe (accessed through Schoology) ([directions to view assessment](#))*

The assessments results above provide teachers with a snapshot of how students are progressing in grade level expectations and include questions that cover multiple progress report standards. These scores are one of many data points that will be considered when assigning progress report scores. They inform teachers of areas where students may need additional instruction and practice, so they can continue to work towards mastering grade level standards. You can expect performance on the assessments to increase over time as the students continue to learn and practice their grade level skills.

In addition to these formal assessments, your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading texts, and demonstrate comprehension through writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
- Talk about the texts your child read at school.
- Try some of the daily activities from the calendar.
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G4 U2

Dear Grade 4 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Characters' Actions and Reactions

Key Concepts:

- Writers can tell the same story in more than one genre, such as a drama and a novel or short story.
- Characters' actions and reactions influence a story's plot, as well as other characters.
- Real-life actions and reactions have effects on real events and people.
- Writers intentionally choose characters' words and actions to reveal the characters to the reader.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long i and short i• Long u and short u• Closed syllables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarizing the text• Describing characters• Making connections between texts and comparing/contrasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write an opinion text about characters and use evidence• Using commas• Sentence agreement

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Student Literacy Progress:

In this Unit, your child completed the following assessments.

- **Benchmark Unit 2 Assessment:** *This assessment measures how they are progressing with applying their knowledge of grade-level standards to new texts that they read independently. Unit assessments include both reading and writing questions. Your child's results on this assessment can be viewed in Benchmark Universe (accessed through Schoology) ([directions to view assessment](#))*

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In addition to these formal assessments, your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading texts, and demonstrate comprehension through writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
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G5 U2

Dear Grade 5 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Developing Characters' Relationships

Key Concepts:

- Realistic fiction is a genre of literature in which authors create characters who could exist in real life, flaws and all, as well as plots that could actually happen.
- Authors use their craft to communicate a character's traits to readers, and how these traits are valued.
- Certain character traits, such as bravery and inquisitiveness, are valued across much of literature.
- Characters in stories can teach readers real-life problem-solving and relationship skills.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● R-controlled vowels● Closed syllables● Open syllables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Summarizing the text● Comparing and contrasting characters● Analyze visual elements & figurative language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Write an opinion text about characters and use evidence● Verb tenses● Linking ideas in writing

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Student Literacy Progress:

In this Unit, your child completed the following assessments.

- **Benchmark Unit 2 Assessment:** *This assessment measures how they are progressing with applying their knowledge of grade-level standards to new texts that they read independently. Unit assessments include both reading and writing questions. Your child's results on this assessment can be viewed in Benchmark Universe (accessed through Schoology) ([directions to view assessment](#))*

The assessments results above provide teachers with a snapshot of how students are progressing in grade level expectations and include questions that cover multiple progress report standards. These scores are one of many data points that will be considered when assigning progress report scores. They inform teachers of areas where students may need additional instruction and practice, so they can continue to work towards mastering grade level standards. You can expect performance on the assessments to increase over time as the students continue to learn and practice their grade level skills.

In addition to these formal assessments, your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading texts, and demonstrate comprehension through writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
- Talk about the texts your child read at school.
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G6 U2

Dear Grade 6 Families:

As your student is coming to the end of Benchmark Advance Unit 2 we wanted to share information to help you support the development of reading and writing at home. In this unit your student learned about:

Unit Topic: Characters at Crossroads

Key Concepts:

- Characters' responses to events can shape the plot, just as characters can be shaped by events and their interactions with others.
- All fiction genres, whether dramas, traditional tales, or historical fiction, contain a protagonist, or leading character, who drives the narrative.
- The challenges a character faces—as well as how that character responds—form the basis for the theme, or message, the author wants to communicate.
- How an individual faces a challenge reveals important insights into that person's character.

Learning Goals:

Phonics & Word Study	Reading Comprehension	Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Long vowels● Open syllables● Vowel-consonant-e	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Summarizing the text● Analyze plot development● Describe character's responses● Compare and contrast texts in different forms and genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Write an opinion text about characters and use evidence● Recognize and correct shifts to ensure agreement in pronouns and verbs in sentences

The bullets above are not exhaustive of all skills and standards covered in this unit. For additional details, review the FCPS Family-Facing Curriculum site: fcps.edu/academics/curriculum

Student Literacy Progress:

In this Unit, your child completed the following assessments.

- **Benchmark Unit 2 Assessment:** *This assessment measures how they are progressing with applying their knowledge of grade-level standards to new texts that they read independently. Unit assessments include both reading and writing questions. Your child's results on this assessment can be viewed in Benchmark Universe (accessed through Schoology) ([directions to view assessment](#))*

The assessments results above provide teachers with a snapshot of how students are progressing in grade level expectations and include questions that cover multiple progress report standards. These scores are one of many data points that will be considered when assigning progress report scores. They inform teachers of areas where students may need additional instruction and practice, so they can continue to work towards mastering grade level standards. You can expect performance on the assessments to increase over time as the students continue to learn and practice their grade level skills.

In addition to these formal assessments, your child also worked to build knowledge on the unit topic, apply strategies while reading texts, and demonstrate comprehension through writing. Please review your child's unit magazine that will also show you how they are progressing in Language Arts.

Home Activities:

- Review the Student Magazine and Activity Calendar.
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Guidance for sharing BA results

Guidance for Sharing Benchmark Assessment Results with Families:

If schools choose to share assessment results via an attached score report, please use the “Single Test Analysis” student report. Directions for running this report can be found in this help article: [Create Single Test Analysis Reports](#)

Assessment results can also be shared directly with students through Benchmark Universe under assignments. If assessment results are shared on the platform and students login to Benchmark Universe at home with their parents/caregivers, they will be able to view the assessment and their results online. Directions for how to share assessment results with students in Benchmark Universe can be found in this help article: [Share Graded Tests with Students](#)

Below is sample language that can be provided to parents:

[Use this text if sharing reports via Benchmark Universe]

You can view your child’s unit assessment results in Benchmark Universe by logging on through Schoology using your child’s username and password (<https://lms.fcps.edu/>), navigating to their class, and clicking Benchmark Universe on the left-hand side. You will then see the assessment listed under assignments. Click the book icon to open the unit assessment and navigate through the assignment to view the questions and responses.

[Use this text if sharing the single test analysis report]

Attached you will find a report of your child’s performance on our most recent Benchmark assessment. This report includes each of the standards that were assessed and your child’s score on each standard. A list of grade level standards can be found on the VDOE website under the 2024 English Standards of Learning.