



My Writing Handbook

4th Grade



MARTIN

4th Grade: My Narrative Rubric Checkpoint Sheet

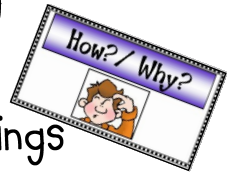
Components	What does it mean?	
#1 15 Sentences	Do I have 15 complete sentences with a subject and predicate? Are my sentences in a sequential order that makes sense?	/3 pts.
#2 Opening	Do I have an opening paragraph that tells the reader what the story is about – using when, who, what about, where and why? BONUS POINT! Did I add a lead before the opening that uses a question, description, dialogue or sound effect?	/2 pts.
#3 Closing	Do I have a closing paragraph that has a “take away” which explains what this story meant to me or a reflection/thinking, or what I remember?	/1 pt.
#4 Transitions	Do I have transitional phrases at the beginning of a new event and some transitions within the paragraphs?	/3 pts.
#5 Supporting Details	Do I have supporting details for one or some events that give a step by step account about something that happened? Do I use specific examples in my details?	/3 pts.
#6 Emotions and Reflections	Do I tell about how a character thinks or feels? Did I use some media questions to make sure I “show – not tell” the character thoughts, feelings or actions?	/2 pts.
#7 Descriptive words & phrases	Do I have adjectives or adjective phrases to describe people, places and events? Did I add figurative language: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification?	/2 pts.
#8 Punctuation Capitalization Spelling	Did I capitalize all proper nouns and beginning of sentences? Is my spelling correct, especially high frequency words. Did I use the correct punctuation with my dialogue, sentence endings, use of commas, etc.	/2 pts.
#9 Grammar Correct verb tense	Do I use the correct verb tense (like all past tense verbs) in my story, unless I am writing dialogue? Does my subject and verb agree in each sentence?	/2 pts.
 How am I doing?		Total = 20 pts. /20pts

4th Grade High Frequency Words

about	eye	off	they
again	fact	of	they're
ahead	famous	our	thought
alone	favorite	opinion	threw
already	field	pair	through
almost	finally	people	thousand
although	first	piece	to
also	forward	practice	too
are	friends	poor	trouble
area	getting	possible	two
asks	gone	probably	understand
beautiful	government	problem	until
because	guess	question	usually
before	happened	quite	very
build	have	quiet	voice
buy	heart	rather	walked
by	heavy	really	want
business	he's	right	warm
can't	hole	road	wasn't
carefully	I'm	rode	watch
choose	instead	region	wear
center	into	said	weather
circle	its	school	went
correct	isn't	signed	we're
couldn't	it's	simple	were
direction	itself	someone	what
didn't	I've	something	when
doesn't	kept	sometimes	where
don't	knew	square	whether
difference	know	straight	who
difficult	laugh	strange	whole
edge	length	strong	whose
either	let's	subject	within
else	leaves	suddenly	won
energy	listen	suppose	won't
enough	machine	surface	wood
especially	measure	system	would
everybody	mountain	terrible	write
everyone	myself	temperature	wrong
everything	natural	that's	wrote
especially	necessary	their	your
except	new	then	you're
excited	ocean	themselves	
explain	one	there	



Opening Transition Words for Narrative Writing



When Openings

Where Openings

Why Openings

Time	Place	This was because
At ____ (6:00 pm)	at the ____	I had always wanted to
When it was ____	in the ____	____because ____
		Come to find out ____
Date	behind the ____	
On __ (Nov. 12, 2010)	beside the ____	Therefore____
Nov. 12, 2010 . That was the day ____	next to ____	So ____
	close to ____	
Age	far away from ____	
When I was __ (5)	near the ____	
After my __ 6th birthday,	in front of ____	
When I was in 2nd grade,		
Season		
One ____ (summer, winter, fall, spring)		

Event Transition Words for Narrative Writing

1. First event

2. Middle Event

3. Last Event

In the beginning	After	Last
First	Next	Later
At first	Later	Later on
Initially	Then _	Finally
As soon as	Afterwards, _	Afterwards
Soon	Soon	Subsequently
It started _	Not long after	After a while
It all started when	Right after	When we finished
Before _	Soon after	The last thing _
It began_	Just then_	Soon after
In the _	Suddenly	At the end
At the _	Before long,	Lastly
	Shortly	As a consequence
	Second	When we were done
	Just then	
	After _ minutes	


Embedded Narrative Transitions that move the story along.

Immediately _____	As soon as	Before ____
Now	When _____	Meanwhile _____
Since _____	As ____	As soon as _____
However,	Whenever ____	Once ____
While _____	In the meantime ____	In an instant
Just as ____	Before long ____	During ____
Pretty soon	Suddenly	Instantly
Before I knew it	When we finished ____	Along the way
Just before I could ____		

More Transitions I have found in Reading

[illegible]

Narrative Transitions and stems for Closing Paragraphs: What can I take away from this experience? What have I learned or how has my life changed?

Transitions that close the story	Something Thoughtful or Life Changing	Something Learned 
Finally ____	I wish ____	I learned ____
Come to find out ____	For the first time in my life_	One lesson I learned ____
Later,	All I can say is ____	This incident taught me _
In the end__	For the rest of my life ____	From now on ____
So ____	I had always wanted to ____	I had acquired ____
By the time ____	As I think back ____	____ has certainly taught me ____
After it all ended ____	As I look back ____	You can be sure that I won't (or will) ____
All in all ____	Thinking back on this time_	I better be careful the next time ____
When all was said and done, ____	After this, my life changed for the ____ (better or worse)	____ taught me more about ____ than ____
Consequently, ____	I enjoyed my time ____	Now I know ____
	____ wasn't so bad after all!	My close call with ____ has taught me to ____
	____ has changed my life	Since then, ____
	I hope ____	
	Yet, I think ____	
	When I look back ____	



Tags for Dialogue



shouted	
yelled	
exclaimed	
screamed	
squealed	
called	
bragged	
cried	
argued	



asked	
questioned	
begged	
stammered	
wondered	
whispered	



said	whispered
stated	murmured
stammered	
thought	
giggled	
explained	
laughed	
cried	
spoke	
remarked	
disagreed	

JUICY COLOR WORDS

See how many color families and individual colors your students can come up with!

RED

ruby
rose
blush
strawberry
cherry
cranberry
rouge
pink
garnet
Christmas
blood
oxblood
rust
barn
fire engine
candy apple
poppy
paprika
magenta
cerise
flaming
sunburn
tomato
fuchsia
scarlet
cinnamon
crimson
carmine

BLUE

baby
sky
navy
midnight

cobalt
royal
country
Wedgewood
denim
powder
robin's egg
azure
periwinkle
steel
slate
ocean blue
aquamarine
cornflower
turquoise
cerulean
sapphire

YELLOW

butter
school bus
egg yolk
marigold
gold
sunflower
cornsilk
banana
lemon

GREEN

lime
fern
olive
drab
army

khaki
seafoam
mint
teal
chartreuse
pistachio
seagreen
pea
forest
lawn
grass

ORANGE

goldenrod
sunset
fluorescent
dayglow
mango
tangerine
pumpkin
persimmon
fiery
coral
peach
saffron

PURPLE

hyacinth
orchid
lilac
lavender
burgundy
periwinkle
violet
bruise

plum
eggplant
aubergine
grape

BROWN

tan
chocolate
cocoa
mahogany
maple
sandy
sienna
moccasin
pecan
walnut
beige
earthen
saddlebrown
terra-cotta
chestnut
bronze

BLACK

jet
ebony
midnight
licorice
pitch
onyx
raven
coal
inky
soot
ebon

WHITE

creme
eggshell
almond
ecru
manila
vanilla
oyster
alabaster
snowy
milky
chalky
bleached
frosted
ivory

GEMS

diamond
ruby
topaz
peridot
emerald
quartz
opal
garnet
citrine

METALLICS

gold
silver
bronze
pewter
steel
platinum
chrome

SENSORY WORDS



TOUCH



SMELL



SOUND

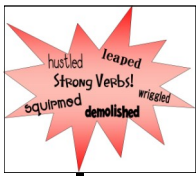


TASTE



SIGHT

rough	smoky	crashing	sweet	round
slippery	buttery	banging	sour	tall
bumpy	dusty	booming	tangy	rumpled
velvety	mildewy	clinking	tart	crumpled
scratchy	fresh	whizzing	spicy	thick
hard	new	popping	fresh	bent
padded	musty	plopping	stale	twisted
melted	musky	dripping	peppery	curved
limp	dank	screeching	burnt	sharp
rigid	spicy	howling	moldy	square
grooved	burnt	bawling	salty	plush
fuzzy	acrid	meowing	oily	puffy
wet	earthy	snapping	creamy	dark
slick	fruity	woofing	acid	long
metallic	flowery	jingling	garlicy	open
cracked	chocolaty	tapping	delicious	dotted
flimsy	leathery	clicking	scrumptious	striped
silky	sweet	splashing	succulent	puckered
gooey	vinegary	slurping	refreshing	new
moist	pungent	whistling	thirst-	ancient
plush	lemony	rustling	quenching	wrinkled
prickly	sharp	crackling	fishy	short
sharp	strong	loud	buttery	bright
curved	cheesy	soft	mouth-	multicolored
hairy	yeasty	muted	watering	see-through
dimpled	old	clanging	fruity	spangled
pointed	rank	roaring	minty	glittery
glassy	rotten	growling	starchy	translucent
oily	decayed	yowling	sweet & sour	opaque
dewy	spoiled	sniffing	juicy	glassy
sandy	perfumey	snorting	meaty	transparent
nubby	woody	scratching	hearty	chaotic
steamy	grassy	whispering	smoked	orderly



Strong Verbs for... All the Ways to MOVE!

<p><u>went</u></p> <p>visited drove flew traveled chauffeured took a trip</p>	<p><u>walked</u></p> <p>hiked backpacked backtracked pitter-pattered tip-toed meandered sauntered strolled strode</p>	<p><u>like an animal</u></p> <p>flipped lumbered wormed slimed slithered crawled dog-paddled</p>	<p><u>musically...</u></p> <p>rocked jammed hip-hopped boogied danced pranced tangoed waltzed tap-danced</p>
<p><u>moved quickly</u></p> <p>ran skipped zoomed galloped sped sprinted bolted bounded sprinted zoomed</p>	<p><u>moved (more!)</u></p> <p>frolicked parachuted jumped / leaped flipped stretched juggled rocked rowed wiggled piggy-backed trespassed side-stepped parachuted</p>	<p><u>heavy movement!</u></p> <p>pounded stamped thundered hammered slam-dunked squished splattered trucked hauled pushed pulled doused ransacked wrangled</p>	<p><u>more!</u></p> <p>arranged rearranged conducted plucked ripped scratched stitched stuffed tickled tucked twisted</p>



STRONGER VERBS for... What someone/something did!

demolished

<u>helped</u> assisted aided taught rescued bandaged consoled volunteered encouraged high-fived reassured embrace/enfolded	<u>ate</u> devoured gulped gobbled inhaled splurged licked slurped	<u>made/created</u> papered pasted clipped cut constructed decorated sanded scribbled	<u>cleaned</u> washed wiped dusted vacuumed scrubbed wiped scraped scoured
<u>do to others</u> flirted flattered bamboozled fooled wormed snooped outwitted	<u>not very nice...</u> chastised manipulated raged hated/despised humiliated teased slimed sabotaged sassed	<u>bothered</u> bugged irritated frustrated annoyed humiliated bullied jabbed karate-chopped monopolized	<u>got rid of</u> fired erased blasted ejected electrocuted bulldozed evaporated demolished shaved
<u>saw</u> looked watched observed noticed viewed glanced peeked peered spied double-checked aimed	<u>more...not less</u> grew cultivated harvested magnified luxuriated enveloped/encircle/ enclose ballooned guaranteed vindicated	<u>liked</u> enjoyed loved appreciated adored cherished relished praised	<u>in the kitchen</u> cooked toasted fried boiled roasted broiled poached grilled plucked baked frosted measured greased melted grated iced thawed



STRONG VIVID VERBS for... Blah! Blah! Blah! (& more)

<p><u>said/talked</u></p> <p>spoke replied answered announced stated uttered whispered muttered gabbed joked/ wise-cracked</p>	<p><u>asked</u></p> <p>suggested requested questioned inquired</p> <hr/> <p><u>cried</u></p> <p>sobbed wept wailed sniffled</p>	<p><u>Like an animal...</u></p> <p>cackled chattered screeched yelped howled squealed barked chirped clucked</p>	<p><u>shouted</u></p> <p>hollered yelled scolded exclaimed screamed declared yelled shrieked disciplined</p>
<p><u>happily...</u></p> <p>laughed guffawed giggled hee-hawed rejoiced chuckled snickered sang/crooned</p>	<p><u>other sounds</u></p> <p>gurgled groaned moaned sneezed burped</p>	<p><u>gestures</u></p> <p>shrugged twitched shivered trembled wrinkled shuddered strained scratched patted</p>	<p><u>expressions</u></p> <p>smiled grinned smirked glowed frowned pouted</p>
<p><u>felt</u></p> <p>relieved dreaded cheapened drained steamed mystified anticipated</p>	<p><u>oops!</u></p> <p>botched goofed hiccupped ruined jack-knifed withered wrenched oozed</p>	<p><u>Ways to think...</u></p> <p>read studied imagined worshipped wrote composed recorded</p>	

Onomatopoeia

Animal Sounds

aarf
baa
bark
bow-wow
buzz
cheep
chirp
clip-clop
clomp
cluck
cock-a-doodle-do
cuckoo
gr-r-r
browl
hee-haw
hiss
honk
howl
meow
moo
neigh
oink
purr
quack
ruff
squeak
squeal
tweet
woof

Breaking Sounds

crack
crunch
r-r-rip
snap

Bumping/ Falling Sounds

bang
clang
clank
clink
clunk
crash
drip
flap
kerplop
derplunk
ping
plop
plunk
pong
scrunch
slop
smack
splash

splat
tap
thump
whack
whomp
whop
zing
zonk

People Sounds

aack
ah
eek
giggle
ha-ha
hmmm
kerchoo
ooh
oomph
sigh
tee-hee
ugh
uh-huh
waa
whee
yuck

Machine Sounds

beep
bing
bleep
blip
boing
choo-choo
clack
clank
click
creak
ding-a-ling
ding-dong
grind
hum
ping
pop
r-r-ring
roar
sputter
squeak
tick-tock
whirr
zoom

Weather Sounds

bang

boom

crackle

crash

drip

ping

who-o-o-o

zing

Other Sounds

blink

bubble

crackle

crinkle

fizz

flip-flop

glug

gurgle

screech

sizzle

slurp

swish

whoosh

zap

zip

zoom

SPECIFIC EMOTION WORDS

POSITIVE EMOTIONS: "I can feel..."



peaceful
relieved
excited
loyal
safe
focused
happy
glad
wanted
needed
valued
helpful
appreciated
respected
included

joyful
proud
calm
free
loved
ready
lovable
friendly
satisfied
powerful
capable
talented
accepted
validated
rewarded

worthy
relaxed
encouraged
noticed
pleased
capable
confident
cherished
prepared
attractive
supported
comfortable
complimented
acknowledged
independent



NEGATIVE EMOTIONS "I can feel..."

sad
lost
ugly
weak
angry
forced
fearful
irritated
excluded
guilty
nervous
betrayed
worried
anxious
humiliated

dumb
mocked
hopeless
judged
bored
ignored
bitter
embarrassed
overlooked
heartbroken
distrustful
stressed
criticized
insulted
confused
ridiculed
patronized
discouraged

overwhelmed
dejected
dissatisfied
unloved
grouchy
bossed
rejected
bothered
disheartened
agitated
interrupted
helpless
uninformed
ashamed
unprepared
disappointed
frustrated
unappreciated



Using an Author's Writing Techniques in my Own Writing

Amazing Adjectives	Terrific Transitions	Vivid Verbs	Dazzling Details	Figurative Language

Sentence Variety



Short Sentence	Compound Sentence	Subject First	Prepositional Phrase	Transitional Phrase	Adjectives First
Johnny Applesseed was amazing!	Johnny Applesseed wanted to help his neighbors and they loved him for it.	Johnny Applesseed planted apple seeds all over the Midwest.	Behind the old barn , Johnny found a sack of seeds large enough to plant a 1000 trees!	As Johnny Applesseed planted his trees , people smiled and cheered him on.	Kind, thoughtful, and loving , Johnny Applesseed was trusted by all the forest animals.



Sentence Variety: Phrases and Clauses

Appositional phrase	Adverbs First	Participial Phrase	Adverbial Phrase
Johnny Applesseed, planter of appleseds , was famous throughout the West.	Quickly, quietly , Johnny Applesseed tiptoed near the fawn and mother deer.	Slowing his horse , Johnny Applesseed looked to see how he could help.	Although only ten years old , Johnny Applesseed could wrestle with a bear and not get hurt.

Response to Literature

Theme





Author's Message



Character

Response to Literature: Linguistic Patterns and Stems for Characterization

1.
2.
3.
4.

Early Intermediate	Intermediate	Early Advanced to Advanced
1a. Nut shell Statement		
Somebody <input type="text"/> Wanted/Needed <input type="text"/> But <input type="text"/> (So) <input type="text"/>		
1b. My Opinion about the character (my judgment) Statement		
<input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/>	I believe/think <input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/>	After reading <input type="text"/> , I have concluded <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	In my opinion, <input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/>	In the story, <input type="text"/> , (the character) is <input type="text"/>
2. Transitions to summarize: Using Evidence from the Story		
First,	At the beginning of the story <input type="text"/>	Early on in the story, <input type="text"/>
Then, Next,	In the middle of the story, <input type="text"/>	Later, when <input type="text"/>
Last, Finally	At the end, <input type="text"/>	Finally, at the end of the story/article, <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	When <input type="text"/> (did/was) <input type="text"/> , <input type="text"/>	One example of <input type="text"/> is when <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Right before/after <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. Summarizing Parts of the Story (choosing parts of the story that pertain to the judgment statement)		
Who/What, 	What about <input type="text"/> ? ... What did <input type="text"/> do/say/think? 	<input type="text"/>
4. Responding/ Reflection/Connections		
<input type="text"/> should (not) <input type="text"/>	How <input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/> in this part! (explain)	At this part OTS, <input type="text"/> was <input type="text"/> because <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/> (trait/feeling)	You can tell that <input type="text"/> is <input type="text"/> (trait/feeling) because <input type="text"/>	Whenever <input type="text"/> (does/says) <input type="text"/> , you can tell she/he is <input type="text"/> (trait)
This is like <input type="text"/> (connection)	<input type="text"/> is acting <input type="text"/> (trait)	Whenever this happens to me, <input type="text"/> (connection)
This is an example of <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> is acting <input type="text"/> (trait) because <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> is acting <input type="text"/> (trait), just like <input type="text"/> (connection)

Character Traits and Emotions Upper

kind

caring
loving
friendly
unselfish
warm
considerate
compassionate
generous
agreeable



happy

joyful
cheerful,
cheery
pleasant
fun-loving
satisfied
lucky
funny
out-going
carefree



Confident

secure
Self-assured
self-confident
sure
assertive
assured
poised
positive



big-headed
arrogant
pompous
cocky
conceited



egotistical
self-important
over-confident

proud

pleased
self-respect
successful



hard-working

responsible
dependable

busy
energetic
reliable
diligent



brave

courageous
heroic
fearless
bold
valiant
bear
endure
confront/face
adventurous



smart

intelligent
bright
witty
creative
brainy
clever
keen
tricky



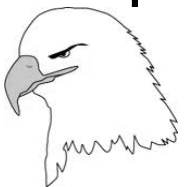
calm

peaceful
quiet
relaxed
gentle



careful

cautious
watchful
alert
precautious
suspicious
wary



tricky

sly
crafty
cunning
wily
artful
scheming
slippery



funny

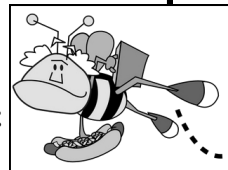
comical
hilarious
amusing
witty
silly
ridiculous
foolish



busy

active
energetic

hyperactive
wired
mischievous



Character Traits and Emotions Upper

sad

unhappy
gloomy
miserable
down-hearted
depressed
serious
regrettable
cheerless
heartbreaking
distressed
bitter
dejected



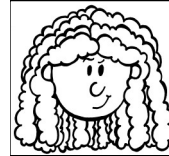
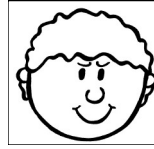
angry

mad
stubborn
furious
annoyed
stormy
inflamed
irritated
livid
fuming



mean

rude
vicious
selfish
nasty
uncaring
unkind
unpleasant



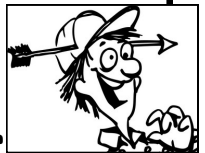
Lazy

bored
irresponsible
slow
tired
idle
lethargic
sluggish



strange

weird
odd
peculiar
different
creepy
unusual
loony
nutty
silly



shy

timid
bashful
quiet
cautious
reluctant



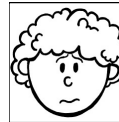
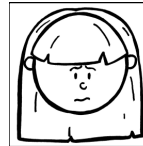
embarrassed

humiliated
mortified
uncomfortable
self-conscious



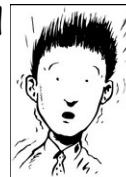
worried

upset
nervous
anxious
worrisome
nervous
stressed



scared

frightened
terrified
fearful
petrified



excluded

rejected
barred
disqualified



Picky

whiny
selfish
fussy
hard to please
particular
demanding

Response to Literature: Linguistic Patterns and Stems for Theme

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

Early Intermediate	Intermediate	Early Advanced to Advanced
1a. Nut shell Statement		
Somebody _____ Wanted/Needed _____ But _____ (So) _____		
1b. Message of Story (my judgment)		
_____ is a story about _____	_____ is a story/genre) about _____ I learned _____ after reading _____	After reading _____, I think/believe the theme of this story is _____
This story is about _____	The message of this story is _____	In the story, _____, the author is _____
2. Transitions to summarize: Using Evidence from the Story		
First,	At the beginning of the story _____	Early on in the story, _____
Then, Next,	In the middle of the story, _____	Later, when _____
Last, Finally	At the end, _____	Finally, at the end of the story/article, _____
	When _____ (did/was) _____, _____	One example of _____ is when _____
	Right before/after _____	
3. Summarizing Parts of the Story (choosing parts of the story that pertain to the judgment statement)		
<div>Who?</div> <div>Who/What,</div>	<div>What about _____? ...</div> <div>What did _____ do/say/think)?</div>	<div>Anything Else?</div> <div>What more happened in the story? What was the author's purpose?</div>
4. Reflection/Connection to Theme/message		
In this part, _____	This is an example of _____ (theme) because _____	Whenever _____, you can tell the author is teaching the reader _____ (theme/message)
This is like _____ (connection)	Whenever this happens to me, _____ (connection)	After reading _____, in my life, I _____
This is an example of _____	In this part of the story, _____	I can make a personal connection to this because _____

Use some of these theme words below to help in developing your generalizations.

Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Negative	Negative
friendship	heroes	choices	challenges	discrimination	homelessness
love	courage	risk-taking	survival	prejudice	poverty
caring	patriotism	values		racism	
loyalty	peace		relationships		loneliness
honesty	freedom	leadership	self-esteem	judgments	tragedy
trust		community	pride	gossip	
acceptance	responsibility	diversity	belonging		
commitment	convictions		peer pressure	hatred	greed
	character	nature		war	
hope	teamwork	environment	money	violence	
dreams	resourcefulness	change		anger	
	respect	discovery	good and evil	bullies	

Taking Action to Care for Others

- It is sometimes hard work to care for others, so you must be persistent, confident, patient and determined.
- No matter what your age, you can still take action if you believe in yourself.
- You may have to give something up even if you don't want to, and people might not agree with you.

Drawing on Inner Strength

- People draw on inner strength to help them persevere through tough times.
- When we draw on our own inner strength we make a conscious decision to act out of courage rather than fear.
- Fostering inner strength is a life-long process.
- Sometimes it is difficult to find inner strength.

Facing Change with Courage

- Everyone has internal courage to help them face change.
- Others can help us gain courage to face change.
- Being courageous means overcoming change in spite of the odds.
- Different people have different reasons for needing to be courageous.

Finding a Place to Belong

- Challenges shape people, and make them stronger.
- Having a place to live isn't the same as having a loving home.
- Many problems occur as a result of not having a place to belong.
- Things we take for granted others may need.
- People need to be resourceful in order to survive when they face challenges.

Building New Friendships

- When we are in a new situation, we can make new friends.
- Friends enrich our lives and can help us in times of need.
- Friends share with one another to express their appreciation of the friendship.

What Carries Us Through Hardship?

- Hardships come in many forms and can happen to anybody.
- To get through hard times, we need to have faith in our own worth and our own power to act.
- To get through hard times, we need to be willing to try new things.
- One thing that can carry people through hardship is concern for someone or something outside of themselves.
- Sometimes family, community and the strength of cultural traditions can carry people through hardship.

THE THEMES OF OUR LIVES

Believe in yourself./Be proud of who you are.

Celebrate creativity and independent thinking.

Strong girls rule!

Perseverance (determination) helps us achieve our goals./Follow your dreams.

Accept others' differences.

Honesty (with compassion) is the best policy.

Never underestimate the importance of kindness to others/thinking of others before yourself.

True friends (and family) are a gift.

We love our siblings (brothers/sisters) —in spite of ourselves.

Be kind to others—and they'll be kind to you.

Explore your feelings.

It's the "small beauties" in our life that are the most meaningful.

Resisting peer pressure is difficult at times—but worth it.

Role models are important.

Education is a privilege.

Reading is a precious gift.

Discrimination hurts.

Slavery, Civil Rights Era ,Japanese-American Experience (internment camps)

The Holocaust, Contemporary (various cultures)

Home is where the heart is.

It's hard to learn a new language (and a new culture).

We can find inspiration in special places.

Hold on to special memories: the special "things" in our life.

Hold on to special memories: the special people in our life.

Take responsibility for your actions./Make good decisions.

Poverty impacts our life in many different ways.

Honor your country.

It's important to care for our environment and the natural world.