

# The Word From Third

Monday, January 6 to  
Thursday, January 16



## Character Traits

In all the fiction we're reading, 3E is focusing in on character traits. Why? Knowing about the character helps a reader better understand a story through empathy and personal connections. Often understanding a character's traits helps a reader to determine that character's motives. Readers also have to use their inferential skills when deciding upon a particular character's traits since most authors are not as explicit to literally tell the reader. In our lessons, we have found evidence for particular character traits by looking at characters' actions, words, and feelings. Next time you're reading a story with your child, you may want to ask him or her to share their observations about the following:

Character traits tell or show you how the characters in the story look, feel, and act. Think about how a character looks, what a character says or thinks, what the character does, and how the character feels.

## Compare and Contrast

While focusing upon character traits, we have also had lessons on comparing and contrasting the various elements of literature. The third grade reading standard expects students to find similarities and differences of character traits, settings, plots, and themes in two (or more) different texts. For example, the students compared and contrasted the character traits of the two main characters in two different picture books by Kevin Henkes, Wemberly Worried and Sheila Rae, the Brave. We also used our writing skills to write two paragraph pieces explaining and elaborating upon the similarities and the differences of the texts they've read.

## Mr. Pack Update

We've had a great two weeks with Mr. Pack. Our morning class meetings have focused on us getting to know about Mr. Pack and him getting to know us.

As the weeks pass by, Mr. Pack gradually begins planning and teaching more and more of the content to the children. Eventually he will be the "main" teacher!

In order to complete his student teaching and graduate, Mr. Pack must submit a video of his teaching. There is more information in the letter sent home in today's Friday Folder.

We do need you to complete the bottom of the letter and return it to school. We need to know if you give permission for your child to appear on any video taken, or if we need to seat your child in a way in which he/she will not be seen.

Please return your release form by Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions!

If you have a printer at home, you may want to visit [www.mathworksheetsite.com](http://www.mathworksheetsite.com).

There you can print a variety of multiplication and division practice pages for building fluency.

**Sorry! There is no photo page this week.**