



## The Wild West

Essential Questions

*“How do characters and settings affect a story?”*  
*“Why is it important for writers to ask and answer questions?”*



### Dear Parents,

In this second six-week unit of second grade, students read literature set in the “Wild West”: chapter books, informational texts, songs, tall tales and fairy tales.

### Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will ask and answer questions (who, what, where, when) about key details in the text. When reading stories, they will describe how characters respond to major events and challenges and use this information to help determine the central message. They will study how authors use beginnings to introduce a story, endings to conclude the action and describe how they use words and phrases to show the rhythm and meaning of text. Students will compare and contrast stories from different cultures. When reading informational text, students will identify the main topics of a passage and its paragraphs and use text features (diagrams, pictures, bold print, sub headings) to locate information in a text. They will study how authors support specific points in a text with reasons as they write to explain or describe.

### Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will read high frequency words and words with long and short vowel sounds and vowel patterns. When reading grade level texts with purpose, understanding, and expression, students will self-correct errors and reread when necessary.

### Writing

Students will write to explain a topic using facts to develop their point and they will craft a concluding statement. With the teacher’s help, they will focus on one topic and strengthen their writing by adding details and correcting errors. With a group of their peers, students will research topics by reading a number of books on a single topic, answer questions by recalling information from research, and put their findings in writing.

### Listening and Speaking

Students will participate in conversations with peers and teachers about second grade texts and topics. They will produce complete and understandable sentences when speaking.

### Language (Conventions of Standard English)

Students will use adjectives and adverbs to add details to simple sentences. They will learn about collective nouns such as *group*. While reading, students will decide the meaning of words and phrases in grade level texts. They will use strategies such as context clues and knowledge about word parts as well as resources such as classroom dictionaries. Students will determine the meanings of verbs and adjectives that are similar (ex: *toss, throw, hurl: thin, slender, skinny*) and correctly spell words that follow patterns they have learned in word study.

### Handwriting & Keyboarding

Second graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. They will practice writing words, sentences and paragraphs in manuscript. When using the keyboard, students will practice using the home keys as they practice typing words. They will learn to use the shift key to capitalize and use the space bar to place spaces between words.