

## Reader's Notebook Parent Overview

November 18, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Reader's Notebook is an integral part of our Reading Workshop program in fifth grade. It allows students to respond in writing to their independent reading books, and at times, books that they are reading in class groups or sharing as a class read aloud. Responding to literature and providing specific examples from the text to support one's thinking is a key focus in the state standards for grade 5. Regular practice will ensure that your child is able to do this with ease and success as the year moves along.

Your child will usually write one letter each week using the friendly letter format (date, greeting, paragraphs, closing and signature). This work will be completed on Monday nights, in lieu of Writer's Notebook. Student letters are expected to be carefully edited for spelling and grammar and represent a student's BEST work. At times, a student will be given a "free pass" for the following week when a letter is well done. Hopefully, this motivates careful attention to the content and the mechanics. Inside the front cover is a reference list of suggested response ideas for responding to literature well. I am responding back to your child each week with comments, questions, and at times, individualized teaching points.

As you review your child's letters, ask questions about books he/she has read and how well the letters express his/her thinking. That is the goal of strong response work. If the letters seem incomplete or lacking in detail, please discuss strategies for improvement.

Please enjoy reviewing your child's notebook this weekend and return this letter with your signature as way for me to know that you are up to date with this important reading tool. Please feel free to add any comments about your child's work. This ensures that you have seen your child's work. Be sure your child puts the book back in his/her backpack to have in class the next week. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you so much.

Ginny Hoehlein

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_