

Unit 1: Generations

Home Connection

Dear Family,

In this unit, students will investigate what one generation can learn from another, considering how knowledge flows between age groups. Students will read a variety of texts, watch videos, and view media as they discuss the Essential Question for the unit.

Essential Question

As a class, students will work to answer this question: *What can one generation learn from another?* Give your student the opportunity to continue the discussion at home.

Feel free to talk it over with your student:

- What are some ways you could answer the question: *What can one generation learn from another?*
- When is experience important? How can someone teach the essence of their experience?
- Why do you think stories about a character learning from someone older or younger as so compelling?

Unit 1 Selection Titles, Authors, & Genres

1. "Two Kinds" from *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (novel excerpt)
2. "A Simple Act" by Tyler Jackson (news blog)
3. from *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff & Alex Tresniowski (memoir)
4. "Tutors Teach Seniors New High-Tech Tricks" by Jennifer Ludden (news article)
5. from *Mom & Me & Mom* by Maya Angelou (memoir)
6. "Learning to Love My Mother" by Maya Angelou & Michael Maher (media: video)
7. *Stand Tall* by Joan Bauer (in-class novel)

Performance Task

After each reading, your student will take comprehension and critical thinking assessments. After they complete the first three readings, students will learn how to write a nonfiction narrative. They will then write a nonfiction narrative answer the question: *What unexpected event shows how a person can influence someone from a different generation?*

Thank you for your continuing support!

Ms. Smith

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