

# Unit 1: Rites of Passage

## Home Connection

Dear Family,

In this unit, students will investigate milestones on the path to growing up, considering how singular experiences can change a life. 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 are some milestones on the path to growing up?* 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 are some milestones on the path to growing up?*
- Do we grow more from experiences we repeat a lot, or from single particularly memorable experiences?
- Why do you think stories about rites of passage are so popular in the media and in books and films?

### Unit 1 Selection Titles, Authors, & Genres

1. "The Medicine Bag" by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (short story)
2. "Apache Girl's Rites of Passage" by National Geographic (media: video)
3. "You are the Electric Boogaloo" by Geoff Herbach (letter)
4. "Just Be Yourself" by Stephanie Pellegrin (letter)
5. "Hanging Fire" by Audre Lorde (poetry)
6. *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (in-class vignette)

### Performance Task

After each reading, your student will take comprehension and critical thinking assessments. After they complete the first two pieces, students will learn how to write a nonfiction narrative. They will then write a nonfiction narrative answer the question: *What event changed your understanding of yourself, or that of someone you know?* Your student will also write a piece comparing the traditions of one culture to another.

**Thank you for your continuing support!**

**Ms. Smith**

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