## Courageous Adventures Unit

**Essential Question Studied:**
- What can a natural disaster teach you?
- How are courage and survival related?

**Key Reading Concepts**
- Analyze author’s word choice to create mood
- Analyze characters’ response to situations
- Identify theme
- Research natural disaster to write a realistic fiction story

**Key Writing Concepts**
- Write personal narrative with beginning, middle and end
- Write an realistic fiction story with characters responding to a natural disaster that they have researched

**Key texts used**
- *Earthquake Terror* by Peg Kehret

## Systems Unit
*(Science content)*

**Essential Question Studied:**
- How are living things connected?
- How do changes in the environment impact living things?

**Key Reading Concepts**
- identifying text structure in informational articles
- summarizing informational text
- researching topics and synthesizing information from multiple sources

## Revolutionary War Period Unit
*(Social Studies content)*

**Essential Question Studied**
- What is freedom?
- What is the power of the written word?

**Key Reading Concepts**
- understand how point of view can influence how events are described
- analyze the characteristics of the historical fiction genre
- use multiple strategies to understand complex text (visualize, ask and answer questions, reread, etc.)

**Key Writing Concepts**
- consider different points of view
- write opinion pieces with an introduction

**Key texts used**
- variety of informational articles from National Geographic Explorer and other sources

## Author Study Unit or Notable People Unit

**Essential Question Studied:**
- What can studying an author’s life and craft teach me about myself as a writer? OR
- How did notable people impact American history?

**Key Reading Concepts**
- researching and synthesizing information from multiple sources

**Key Writing Concepts**
- produce a well organized report about their chosen person
| with an opinion, body with supporting reasons, and a related conclusion | ● If Author Study: application of author’s craft to own writing piece  
 ● If Notable People: visual aide for presentation |
|---|---|
| **Key texts used:**  
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson | **Key texts used**  
Biographies, online sources  
If author study unit, copies of multiple texts by their chosen author |