



September 26, 2016

Dear Fourth Graders,

Over the last few weeks we have talked about how to make the world a better place, and how to make ourselves better as people. When we work on making ourselves better for the world, it can be said that we are building our individual characters. Your character is defined by what you do, and now what you say or think. Every choice you make helps to shape the kind of person you are choosing to be. A good character requires doing the right thing, even when you find it difficult. Sometimes it's difficult to act better than our best friend who is making a poor choice, but you can choose to be better. What you do matters, and one person can make a BIG difference. When you do what is right, even when it feels difficult, that shows you are trustworthy. It means that I can count on you to be a good and dependable student. In your letter, tell me what trust has to do with the quality of someone's character? How do you know when you can trust someone? What does trusting someone look like?

This week, we will start a mini unit on Fairy Tales. These short stories are fun to read as they dive into a fantasy world with beautiful princesses, noble princes, fairy godmothers, and of course, ogres, dragons, and witches. Fairy tales have been around for hundreds of years, passed down from one generation to the next, each time being changed a little bit with every reading. For example, did you know that in an older version of Cinderella, her slipper was not made of glass, but instead was made of squirrel fur? In an old version of Red Riding Hood, the wolf was an ogre, and Snow White was not given a red apple by the Queen, but instead a loaf of bread. Not only are these fairy tales entertaining, but most importantly, they are read to boys and girls to teach a moral or valuable lesson. We know this to be the *theme* of a story. In your letter, tell me about your favorite fairy tale. Why is it your favorite? What lesson do you think it was trying to teach?

We are continuing to grow as writers, and therefore, each paragraph must have at least 4 complete sentences. Please continue to work hard. I can't wait to learn more about you this week. Don't forget to include the 5 parts of a letter, and sign your name in cursive at the end!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cozzi