

During the month of January, students will be focusing on specific ways to improve their writing skills. They will polish their writing by using words with appropriate nuances in meaning. They will also use various types of figurative language and sensory details to convey ideas. Sentences will include variety in structure, length, and type while avoiding fragments, run-ons, and repetition.

Students will also begin reading the novel, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. They will demonstrate comprehension by completing weekly quizzes over assigned chapters. Guided discussions will cover elements such as theme, characterization, point of view, stereotypes, conflict, and the five stages of plot.

Weekly vocabulary and spelling tests will be given on Fridays, and 20 AR points are due by March 14.