



Grade 4 Novel Study

**The Seasons of Styx Malone** by Kekla Magoon

Dear Families,

Over the next three weeks, 4th grade students will explore long form fiction through a contemporary novel study **The Seasons of Styx Malone** by Kekla Magoon. The novel has been recognized with several awards including a Coretta Scott King Honor Book and winner of the Boston Globe Horn Book Award for Fiction.

**What will my student learn?**

Students will trace the development of plot, characterization and theme over the course of this novel study.

Students will demonstrate their learning through a multimedia project showcasing important themes in the story and using text evidence to support their opinions, inferences and conclusions.

**Conversation Starters:**

Who are the main characters in the story?

Follow up: In what ways are the characters similar or different? Can you give a specific example?

What is the problem in the story?

Follow up: Based on what you know about the characters, what do you think will happen?

Which character do you most relate to?

Follow up: What about the character reminds you of yourself?

What is an *escalator trade*?

Follow up: Can you explain it to me? Do you think this is a good solution to the problem?