



Use the different sections of this letter to begin conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

Big Idea: Why are cycles important in nature?

Ask your child how this week's reading selection helps him or her answer this question.

This week's reading selection: *A Year on Bowie Farm*

Summary: Work never stops on Bowie farm. As one season ends and another begins, Elijah Bowie teaches the newest member of the family, a border collie puppy named Charlie, how to perform various chores around the farm.

► **DISCUSS** with your child the different seasons and how the seasons affect everyday activities.

Vocabulary Encourage your child to use these words while discussing the reading selection.

scrabbling	verb	running frantically or without direction
romping	verb	playing or jumping with excitement
retractable	adjective	able to be pulled back, sometimes by pushing a button
reap	verb	to cut down and gather; harvest, as in a crop
intercept	verb	to stop something from continuing in a direction
operation	noun	the act or way of working
administered	verb	gave or provided
lush	adjective	thick, full
hefted	verb	struggled to lift something heavy
spigot	noun	a faucet from which water flows
cull	verb	to remove, reduce
rolling	adjective	characterized by a rising and falling pattern, like a wave

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. assimilate | 8. respect | 15. simulate |
| 2. consensus | 9. sensational | 16. simulator |
| 3. facsimile | 10. sensibility | 17. spectacle |
| 4. inspect | 11. sensitive | 18. spectator |
| 5. inspector | 12. sensitivity | 19. spectrum |
| 6. nonsense | 13. sensory | 20. speculate |
| 7. perspective | 14. simile | |

Challenge

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| 1. desensitize | 2. dissimilar | 3. simultaneous |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will select a topic for a piece of informational writing, use a TIDE graphic organizer to organize the writing, and then begin drafting the text.

Grammar: Your child will learn about the different uses of commas.

► **ASK** your child to tell you his or her informative writing topic. Discuss different sources that he or she could use to find information about the topic.