



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

Big Idea: What does *respect* mean to you?

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

This week's reading selection: *Bummer and Lazarus*

Summary: This selection is the true story of two canine companions who lived in San Francisco in the 1860s. Frequent newspaper reports on their antics and incredible acts of friendship made these stray dogs local celebrities.

Essential Questions: Why is it important to stand by your friends? What is the value of loyalty? How can loyalty show respect?

► **DISCUSS** with your child how people can care and show respect for animals. Find a book about pet care to read together.

Vocabulary

Focus: The words below appear in this week's reading selection.

cold	<i>adjective</i>	not friendly
common	<i>adjective</i>	often found
heal	<i>verb</i>	make or become healthy again
reins	<i>noun</i>	narrow straps attached to a bridle that control a horse
spread	<i>verb</i>	extend over an area
unselfish	<i>adjective</i>	thinking of others

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with the long *a* sound, the /*əl*/ sound, and regular plurals.

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| 1. spray | 6. subway | 11. holidays |
| 2. riddles | 7. brushes | 12. essay |
| 3. basil | 8. camel | 13. fables |
| 4. petals | 9. plain | 14. paints |
| 5. trains | 10. shuttle | 15. claim |

Challenge

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| 1. stairs | 2. fingernails | 3. despair |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will revise, edit, and publish an opinion piece. He or she will then use graphic organizers to brainstorm, evaluate, and organize ideas for a new opinion piece.

Grammar: Your child will also be learning about complete simple sentences this week. Simple sentences contain one subject and one predicate. The subjects and predicates can be simple (*The dog jumped the fence.*) or compound (*Spot and Fluffy jumped the fence and ran away.*).

► **ASK** your child to explain what a complete sentence is. Then have him or her write several complete sentences about the best kind of pet.