



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

Big Idea: What do we gain by persevering?

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

This week's reading selection: *Hatchet, Part I*

Summary: Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson struggles to survive after a plane crash strands him in the middle of the Canadian wilderness. He manages to scavenge berries and build a small lean-to, but realizes he will also need a signal fire. With his trusty hatchet, he goes to work to build a fire.

► **DISCUSS** with your child the importance of perseverance when something does not work the first time.

Vocabulary Read aloud a definition, and ask your child to identify the correct vocabulary word.

skittered	verb	moved in a quick and shaky way
rasping	adjective	rough; screeching
pointed	adjective	characterized as being sharp and specific
segment	noun	a part of something
wincing	verb	making a pained expression
glancing	adjective	hitting or striking at an angle instead of directly
registered	verb	recognized something or someone
tendrils	noun	thin, curly pieces of material
painstaking	adjective	careful and thorough
quantity	noun	the number or amount
tensed	verb	made one's muscles tight
flue	noun	a passage through which smoke flows

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. concoct | 8. construct | 15. midsentence |
| 2. concur | 9. contract | 16. midstream |
| 3. conduct | 10. converge | 17. midterm |
| 4. conductor | 11. midair | 18. midtown |
| 5. confer | 12. midday | 19. midwife |
| 6. conjoin | 13. midnight | 20. midwinter |
| 7. conspire | 14. midpoint | |

Challenge

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| 1. contiguous | 2. connote | 3. midfielder |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will use an idea web to brainstorm topics for an opinion essay and begin to draft the essay.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and use prepositions and prepositional phrases.

► **ASK** your child to use prepositions to describe objects in your home. For example, *the book is under the bed.*