



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

## Big Idea: What places make up a community?

There is one Big Idea question for every three weeks of instruction. Your child should think about the ways each reading selection can answer this question.

## This week's reading selection: *City Life and Town Life*

**Summary:** The characteristics of a large city (New York City) and a small town (Alden, New York) are compared and contrasted.

**Essential Questions:** How is living in a city different from living in a small town? How is it the same?

► **DISCUSS** with your child the characteristics of the place where you live.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>citizens</b>	<i>noun</i>	people who live in a specific place and have rights in that area
<b>common</b>	<i>adjective</i>	something shared by multiple people or things
<b>commute</b>	<i>verb</i>	to travel to and from where you live and where you work
<b>facilities</b>	<i>noun</i>	buildings that are built for a specific purpose
<b>fewer</b>	<i>adjective</i>	a smaller number of
<b>hectic</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very busy; lots of activity
<b>recreation</b>	<i>noun</i>	activities that people enjoy
<b>types</b>	<i>noun</i>	particular groups or kinds

► **ADD** the vocabulary words to your conversations at home.

## Phonics

**Focus:** Your child will learn the following sounds and spellings: /i/ spelled *i, i\_e*; /s/ spelled *ce, ci\_*; and /j/ spelled *ge, gi\_*.

Words to practice blending with your child include *find, mild, bike, five, ice, cent, circus, circle, page, large, margin, and ginger*.

► **HAVE** your child identify objects at home that have these sounds and spellings and use them in sentences.

**High-Frequency Words:** Have your child practice reading the following words: *after, go, make, ride, them, walk, we, well, you*.

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will complete each step of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting) to write an opinion statement telling whether he or she would rather live in a tree house or on a houseboat.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn that names of people and proper nouns need to be capitalized (*Anna, Marcus, Central Park, Empire State Building*).

► **GIVE** your child three common nouns, such as *child, town, and school*, and have him or her name a corresponding proper noun.