



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

## Big Idea: How has the United States changed over time?

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

## This week’s reading selection: *Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass*

**Summary:** Abraham Lincoln was the newly-inaugurated leader of a nation headed toward civil war. Frederick Douglass was a formerly-enslaved person who had become the country’s most famous and ardent abolitionist. Both men battled to purge America of the evils of slavery, but they did not always agree on how it should be done.

► **DISCUSS** the importance of friendship and how friends can work together to accomplish a goal.

**Vocabulary** Have your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

|                     |                  |   |
|---------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>abolitionist</b> | <i>noun</i>      | a person in favor of abolishing slavery   |
| <b>smoldering</b>   | <i>verb</i>      | burning and smoking with few or no flames   |
| <b>alienate</b>     | <i>verb</i>      | to make someone feel uncomfortable or alone                                       |
| <b>decisive</b>     | <i>adjective</i> | deciding something finally and completely   |
| <b>radical</b>      | <i>adjective</i> | favoring extreme changes or reforms   |
| <b>emigrating</b>   | <i>verb</i>      | leaving one’s own place or country to live in another                             |
| <b>righteous</b>    | <i>adjective</i> | good or justified   |
| <b>forbearing</b>   | <i>adjective</i> | marked by restraint   |
| <b>shackles</b>     | <i>noun</i>      | metal rings used to fasten or restrain wrists or ankles                           |
| <b>enthusiasm</b>   | <i>noun</i>      | a strong feeling of excitement and interest about something                       |
| <b>mariner</b>      | <i>noun</i>      | a person who sails or navigates a ship  |
| <b>ardor</b>        | <i>noun</i>      | great loyalty or feeling for  |
| <b>midst</b>        | <i>noun</i>      | a position in the middle of a group of people or things                           |
| <b>brethren</b>     | <i>noun</i>      | a pluralized archaic form of the word <i>brother</i> ; a fellow member of a group |

## Spelling Practice these words with your child.

- |               |                   |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. adopt      | 8. Hydra          | 15. optimize    |
| 2. aquamarine | 9. hydrant        | 16. optimum     |
| 3. aquanaut   | 10. hydroelectric | 17. optional    |
| 4. aquarium   | 11. hydroplane    | 18. optometrist |
| 5. aquatic    | 12. optic         | 19. rehydrate   |
| 6. co-opt     | 13. optical       | 20. subaquatic  |
| 7. dehydrate  | 14. optimistic    |                 |

## Challenge

- |             |                |              |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. aqueduct | 2. fiber-optic | 3. hydraulic |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will publish and present his or her response to nonfiction. Then your child will learn how to write a news story.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about commonly misused words, such as *two*, *to*, and *too*. Then he or she will practice using the words correctly.

► **WRITE** the following words: *their*, *they’re*, *there*, *than*, and *then*. Then have your child generate a sentence for each word that shows the correct use of the word.