



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 2*

Summary: Having built a small fire, Brian's mind turns to his empty stomach. In his search for food, Brian uncovers a clutch of turtle eggs buried in the sand. He manages to eat several of them despite their taste. He stores the rest inside his shelter. No longer starving, he begins to feel hopeful about his situation.

► **DISCUSS** with your child a time he or she tried something new. Was the experience difficult?

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

interior	noun	the inside of a room or building
banked	verb	piled into a heap
weathered	adjective	exposed to the weather; worn out
swarmed	verb	advanced in great numbers
dusk	noun	the time of day when the sun goes down and it begins to get dark
handle	noun	having a grasp on a difficult situation
intervals	noun	short periods of time
regulate	verb	to control; adjust
freshwater	adjective	water that comes from lakes or sources other than the sea
dormant	adjective	inactive; as if sleeping
leathery	adjective	having a tough surface, as of leather
convulse	verb	to be shaken in a forceful manner

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. apologize | 8. encyclopedia | 15. paragraph |
| 2. arrangement | 9. evidence | 16. preference |
| 3. conductor | 10. geography | 17. prehistoric |
| 4. construct | 11. loneliness | 18. reflection |
| 5. criticize | 12. midnight | 19. saxophone |
| 6. dislocate | 13. midstream | 20. technology |
| 7. emphasize | 14. nontoxic | |

Challenge

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| 1. characterize | 2. cyclical | 3. prologue |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will focus on using transition words and phrases as he or she revises, edits, and publishes an opinion essay. Your child will have the opportunity to present the essay to the class.

Grammar: Your child will review the concepts discussed throughout the unit, including nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions.

► **HAVE** your child practice presenting his or her opinion essay to you. Remind him or her to speak clearly and to maintain eye contact with you.