



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: *The Prairie Fire*

Summary: It is autumn in the Great Plains, and grass fires have become a worry for Percy's family. One day Percy sees the telltale black smoke on the horizon. Will the fields and homestead be in the path of the flames?

Essential Questions: What kinds of people show bravery in the face of danger? Why do we admire people like firefighters and astronauts?

► **DISCUSS** with your child the kinds of things he or she should do in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or tornado. Establish emergency procedures for your home, and make sure everyone understands their roles.

Vocabulary

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

douse	<i>verb</i>	throw a liquid on
drive	<i>verb</i>	prod animals into moving in a desired direction
guard	<i>verb</i>	keep safe from harm or danger
heart	<i>noun</i>	one's innermost feelings or spirit
homestead	<i>noun</i>	a house and the farmland it is on
pack	<i>noun</i>	a group of animals that are alike
parched	<i>adjective</i>	very dry
sod	<i>noun</i>	a cut layer of soil with grass growing on it
thrust	<i>verb</i>	push with force
trudged	<i>verb</i>	walked slowly and with effort
waste	<i>verb</i>	spend or use foolishly
yards	<i>noun</i>	measures of length equal to about three feet

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

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with silent letters and irregular plurals.

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| 1. phone | 6. oxen | 11. knocking |
| 2. teeth | 7. knife | 12. mice |
| 3. wrote | 8. fish | 13. wrinkle |
| 4. phase | 9. limb | 14. whale |
| 5. crumb | 10. children | 15. cacti |

Challenge

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| 1. women | 2. deer | 3. people |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will draft, revise, edit, and publish an opinion piece. He or she will then prewrite for a three-paragraph opinion essay about how to improve the school.

Grammar: Your child will learn about using quotation marks in dialogue and to indicate titles, using commas in a series and in dialogue, and using proper capitalization.

► **ASK** your child to write the name and address of his or her school. Discuss whether he or she has used commas and capitalization properly.