



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

## Big Idea: What is your relationship with nature?

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

## This week's reading selection: *Alejandro's Gift*

**Summary:** Alejandro rarely receives visitors at his remote desert home, and the loneliness can sometimes be tough to bear. When his new garden begins to attract a diverse assortment of desert critters, however, Alejandro realizes he has more company than he could have imagined.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different ways we can help animals in our environment.

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

<b>adobe</b>	<i>noun</i>	a brick made of clay that is dried in the sun
<b>companion</b>	<i>noun</i>	a friend who is always by your side
<b>burro</b>	<i>noun</i>	a small donkey used for riding and for carrying small loads
<b>warily</b>	<i>adverb</i>	with great caution; carefully
<b>perch</b>	<i>verb</i>	to sit or rest on something that is raised in the air
<b>short-tempered</b>	<i>adjective</i>	quickly angered or made upset
<b>ample</b>	<i>adjective</i>	more than enough
<b>dwellers</b>	<i>noun</i>	people or things that make a home in a place
<b>drudgery</b>	<i>noun</i>	difficult, unpleasant, or uninteresting labor
<b>screened</b>	<i>verb</i>	hid or protected by covering
<b>hoarsely</b>	<i>adverb</i>	having a rough or sharp sound
<b>cackling</b>	<i>adjective</i>	characterized by a high-pitched, broken sound
<b>thickets</b>	<i>noun</i>	thick patches of shrubs or bushes
<b>crest</b>	<i>noun</i>	a long tuft of feathers atop a bird's head

## Spelling Practice these words with your child.

- |              |                 |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. animation | 8. discredit    | 15. ordain        |
| 2. animator  | 9. disorder     | 16. ordinal       |
| 3. animosity | 10. imagery     | 17. ordinance     |
| 4. animus    | 11. imaginary   | 18. unanimity     |
| 5. credible  | 12. imagination | 19. unimaginable  |
| 6. creditor  | 13. incredulous | 20. unimaginative |
| 7. credo     | 14. inordinate  |                   |

## Challenge

- |               |                |                  |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. accredited | 2. magnanimous | 3. uncoordinated |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will plan, draft, revise, and edit a summary of a previously-read nonfiction selection.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about the different types of punctuation used when writing dialogue. Then he or she will practice writing dialogue.

► **HAVE** your child discuss the nonfiction text that he or she is using for the writing assignment. Have your child tell you the most important details about the selection.