



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

## Big Idea: What do you have in common with people around the world?

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

## This week’s reading selection: *Just 17 Syllables!*

**Summary:** After his parents’ jobs take their family to Japan, Danny is wracked with homesickness for the United States. When he’s introduced to the poetic art of haiku, Danny learns how to express his feelings and participate in Japanese society.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different forms of art (painting, ceramics, photography, dance, poetry, etc.). Have your child tell you his or her favorite art form.

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

<b>expressway</b>	<i>noun</i>	a wide road with several lanes used for automobile traffic
<b>gradually</b>	<i>adverb</i>	happening little by little; slowly
<b>welled</b>	<i>verb</i>	rose to the surface, usually referring to a liquid
<b>melancholy</b>	<i>noun</i>	a deep sadness
<b>insurance</b>	<i>noun</i>	protection against loss or damage
<b>clearing</b>	<i>noun</i>	a piece of land free from trees or large plants
<b>shogun</b>	<i>noun</i>	one of the many military rulers of Japan who served before the revolution of 1867-1868
<b>regularly</b>	<i>adverb</i>	done again and again at about the same time; evenly paced
<b>verse</b>	<i>noun</i>	a section of a poem or song
<b>fiddled</b>	<i>verb</i>	aimlessly played around with
<b>pondered</b>	<i>verb</i>	thought carefully
<b>charming</b>	<i>adjective</i>	attractive or appealing

## Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. abrupt      | 8. auditorium     | 15. disrupt        |
| 2. amphibious  | 9. auditory       | 16. eruption       |
| 3. audience    | 10. autobiography | 17. inaudible      |
| 4. audiobooks  | 11. bankrupt      | 18. interruption   |
| 5. audiology   | 12. biodiversity  | 19. microbiologist |
| 6. audiovisual | 13. biography     | 20. rupture        |
| 7. audit       | 14. biology       |                    |

## Challenge

- |                 |              |                  |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. neurobiology | 2. symbiotic | 3. uninterrupted |
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## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will revise, edit, and publish his or her personal narrative and then begin planning a fantasy story.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using irregular nouns and irregular verbs.

► **HAVE** your child tell you the plural form of the following nouns: *child, mouse, woman, tooth,* and *foot*.