



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

**Big Idea:** How do animals interact with their environments?

Your child should think about ways each reading selection over the next six weeks can answer this question.

**This week's reading selection:** *The Country Mouse and the City Mouse*

**Summary:** Creature cousins play host to each other in their country and city homes. These mice may be related, but as they soon realize, their habitats have few similarities.

**Essential Questions:** What kinds of animals live in the country? What kinds live in the city? Why do you think animals are better suited for one place over another?

► **DISCUSS** with your child how the city and the countryside are alike and different. Create a chart that displays the details you have discussed.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>abundance</b>	<i>noun</i>	a quantity that is more than enough
<b>compost</b>	<i>noun</i>	a mixture of decayed plants, manure, etc. used as fertilizer
<b>craggy</b>	<i>adjective</i>	having many steep, rugged rocks or cliffs
<b>elements</b>	<i>noun</i>	the forces of the atmosphere, such as rain, wind, or snow
<b>inadequate</b>	<i>adjective</i>	less than required
<b>luxury</b>	<i>noun</i>	a way of life that gives great comfort or pleasure
<b>musty</b>	<i>adjective</i>	having a stale or moldy odor or taste
<b>saliva</b>	<i>noun</i>	a colorless liquid in the mouth
<b>scrumptious</b>	<i>adjective</i>	very pleasing or delightful, especially to the taste
<b>scrutinized</b>	<i>verb</i>	looked at or examined closely
<b>tone</b>	<i>noun</i>	a particular style or manner of speaking
<b>tranquility</b>	<i>noun</i>	calm or peacefulness

► **HELP** your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

## Spelling

**Focus:** This week your child will spell words with the suffixes *-ly*, *-y*, *-ment*, and *-ive*.

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|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. slightly | 6. chewy    | 11. treatment |
| 2. kindly   | 7. funny    | 12. grumpy    |
| 3. partly   | 8. slimy    | 13. secretive |
| 4. daily    | 9. shipment | 14. inclusive |
| 5. scary    | 10. payment | 15. muddy     |

## Challenge

- |               |           |              |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. engagement | 2. easily | 3. sensitive |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|

► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will plan and draft an informative/explanatory text that compares and contrasts two places.

**Grammar:** Your child will also learn about comparative and superlative adjectives (*brighter*, *brightest*) and adverbs (*more clearly*, *most clearly*).

► **ASK** your child to compare and contrast two objects in your home. Challenge him or her to use comparative adjectives and adverbs.