



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: *Damon and Pythias*

**Summary:** Damon and Pythias show what true friendship means in this Greek legend set on the island of Sicily. When one young man is captured by King Dionysius, the other one volunteers to take his place.

**Essential Questions:** How important is trust between friends? Have you ever worked hard to show somebody that you care about him or her? What would you be willing to give up for a friend?

► **DISCUSS** with your child all the things he or she can do to be a good friend. Together, write a list of friendship rules on a piece of paper.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>anxious</b>	<i>adjective</i>	uneasy, worried, or fearful about what may happen
<b>before</b>	<i>adverb</i>	in front of
<b>criticize</b>	<i>verb</i>	to find fault with something
<b>intended</b>	<i>verb</i>	meant or planned to do something
<b>pardon</b>	<i>verb</i>	to free a person from punishment
<b>seized</b>	<i>verb</i>	grabbed or took hold by force

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

## Spelling

**Focus:** This week your child will spell words with the /j/ and /s/ sounds and words with different shades of meaning.

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. icy     | 6. gentle  | 11. bother |
| 2. frigid  | 7. range   | 12. enrage |
| 3. twice   | 8. city    | 13. germ   |
| 4. large   | 9. since   | 14. logic  |
| 5. massive | 10. decent | 15. agent  |

## Challenge

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. garbage | 2. receive | 3. acquire |
|------------|------------|------------|

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

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will use an idea web and a TREE graphic organizer to prewrite for an opinion piece. He or she will then focus on transitions and precise word choice while drafting the piece.

**Grammar:** Your child will also be learning about subjects and predicates this week. The subject tells who or what a sentence is about, while the predicate tells what the subject is or does.

► **ASK** your child to write several sentences about his or her favorite book or movie. Tell him or her to underline the sentences' complete subjects once and the complete predicates twice.