



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

## Big Idea: Why do we need a government?

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

### This week's reading selection: *Marching with Aunt Susan*

**Summary:** Inspired by her meeting with Susan B. Anthony, young Bessie becomes swept up in the fight for women's suffrage in late nineteenth-century California. Her will is tested, however, by a demonstration gone awry and the defeat of an important referendum.

**Essential Questions:** How do we change the laws? Why do people value their right to vote? What are some ways to let the government know your opinion?

► **DISCUSS** with your child how voting rights have changed in America throughout its history. Together, visit the library or search the Internet to find out more about Susan B. Anthony and the Nineteenth Amendment.

## Vocabulary

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

|             |           |  |
|-------------|-----------|--|
| appropriate | adjective | suitable for an occasion; proper                           |
| campaign    | noun      | an organized series of actions carried out for a purpose   |
| factory     | noun      | a building where things are manufactured                   |
| liberty     | noun      | freedom from tyranny or foreign domination                 |
| marched     | verb      | walked with regular, measured steps                        |
| mount       | verb      | to get on top of   |
| power       | noun      | the ability to do, act, or bring about a particular result |
| rally       | noun      | a meeting for a common purpose                             |
| ratify      | verb      | to officially approve                                      |
| strenuous   | adjective | requiring great effort or exertion                         |
| suffrage    | noun      | the right or privilege of voting                           |
| zeal        | noun      | an intense desire or devotion                              |

► **READ** aloud a definition, and ask your child to identify the correct vocabulary word.

## Spelling

**Focus:** Your child will spell words with prefixes and suffixes this week.

- |              |               |                |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. renew     | 6. midday     | 11. humidity   |
| 2. unpaid    | 7. assistance | 12. collection |
| 3. judgment  | 8. preview    | 13. scientist  |
| 4. misbehave | 9. inactive   | 14. selfish    |
| 5. biweekly  | 10. blameless | 15. leadership |

## Challenge

- |             |                |             |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. misquote | 2. distrustful | 3. mythical |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|

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

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will draft, revise, edit, and publish a summary. He or she will then begin prewriting a response to this week's historical fiction selection.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn that complex sentences include at least one independent clause and at least one dependent clause.

► **HAVE** your child write several complex sentences. Work together to underline the dependent and independent clauses in each sentence.