



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

Big Idea: How is science put into action?

Ask your child how this week’s reading selections help him or her answer this question.

This week’s reading selections:

My Brother’s Flying Machine: Wilbur and Orville Wright’s sister reveals what it was like to watch her brothers invent the airplane. She describes how they first became interested in flight and their determination to invent a flying machine a person could control and maneuver.

The Diary of Orville Wright, 1903: In this diary entry, Orville Wright describes the first four flights he and his brother Wilbur took on their flying machine from the beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. An engine lifted the craft into the air, but erratic winds and rudder placement contributed to crashes and damage.

▶ **DISCUSS** with your child what can inspire inventors and how and why they record their observations.

Vocabulary Encourage your child to use these vocabulary words while discussing the reading selections.

marveling	<i>verb</i>	feeling wonder and astonishment
f tinkering	<i>verb</i>	trying to repair or improve something by making small changes
mused	<i>verb</i>	thought long and quietly
spanned	<i>verb</i>	extended across or over
bore	<i>noun</i>	a person or thing that is dull
confidence	<i>noun</i>	trust that a person will not tell a secret
absorbed	<i>verb</i>	held the interest of
trial	<i>noun</i>	a trying or testing of something
lever	<i>noun</i>	a rod or bar attached to a machine, used to work or control it
manner	<i>noun</i>	the way in which something is done

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. attractive | 8. dictionary | 15. manufacture |
| 2. consign | 9. extract | 16. prediction |
| 3. contract | 10. indicate | 17. protractor |
| 4. designer | 11. manager | 18. resign |
| 5. detract | 12. mandate | 19. signature |
| 6. dictator | 13. manipulate | 20. significant |
| 7. diction | 14. manual | |

Challenge

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| 1. abstract | 2. predicament | 3. maneuver |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will choose a topic for a research report. He or she will also discuss finding resources and taking notes.

Grammar: Your child will learn about capitalization rules, including dates, cities and states, addresses, days and months, and book titles.

▶ **ASK** your child to tell you the process he or she used to decide which topic to investigate for his or her research report.