



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

Big Idea: How has the United States changed over time?

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

This week’s reading selection: *A Spy by Chance*

Summary: Walter is an apple merchant living in Manhattan during the time of the American Revolution. He supports the American cause, but the British Army has occupied his city for the past two years. He cannot express his support without risking his life. When he overhears that the British are planning a surprise attack, Walter must decide if he is brave enough to take up the revolutionary cause.

► **DISCUSS** the American Revolutionary War and some of the risks people took during the war.

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

pushcart	<i>noun</i>	a small cart that is pushed by hand; a wheelbarrow
market square	<i>noun</i>	an area in a town or city where merchants sell goods from stalls
enterprise	<i>noun</i>	something that a person strives to do, often referring to a business
keen	<i>adjective</i>	eager or interested in
camaraderie	<i>noun</i>	friendship
oath	<i>noun</i>	a statement in which one promises that what one says is true
outgoing	<i>adjective</i>	friendly and talkative
suspicious	<i>noun</i>	an emotional state characterized by doubt about a person or thing
blockade	<i>verb</i>	to shut off an area to keep people or supplies from leaving or coming
freely	<i>adverb</i>	done without concern or worry
frigid	<i>adjective</i>	very cold
checkpoints	<i>noun</i>	barriers along routes that are guarded
under lock and key	<i>adjectival phrase</i>	keep secure or safe
hull	<i>noun</i>	the sides and bottom of a boat
gruffer	<i>adjective</i>	not friendly or polite
befriend	<i>verb</i>	to make a friend of

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. anagram | 8. mechanized | 15. political |
| 2. diagram | 9. metropolis | 16. politician |
| 3. epigram | 10. metropolitan | 17. seismogram |
| 4. grammar | 11. monogram | 18. sophisticated |
| 5. mechanic | 12. philosopher | 19. sophomore |
| 6. mechanical | 13. philosophy | 20. telegram |
| 7. mechanism | 14. policy | |

Challenge

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| 1. cardiogram | 2. cosmopolitan | 3. grammatical |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish a persuasive letter.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using demonstrative, indefinite, reflexive, and relative pronouns.

► **ASK** your child to tell you the topic of his or her persuasive letter. Discuss the correct format for a business letter.