



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

## Big Idea: What do we gain by persevering?

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

## This week's reading selection: *The Great Serum Race*

**Summary:** When the remote town of Nome, Alaska was struck by an outbreak of diphtheria in 1925, the only way to transport a cure was by dogsled. Over the course of six days, twenty brave mushers and more than a hundred sled dogs pushed through freezing temperatures and deadly conditions to bring a cure to Nome.

► **DISCUSS** with your child challenges he or she has faced when helping someone else.

**Vocabulary** Have your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

|                    |                  |                                                                                        |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>symptoms</b>    | <i>noun</i>      | signs of illness or disease                                                            |
| <b>quarantine</b>  | <i>noun</i>      | the act of separating people who have a contagious disease from people who are healthy |
| <b>serum</b>       | <i>noun</i>      | a medicinal liquid used to battle an illness                                           |
| <b>freight</b>     | <i>noun</i>      | materials transported in a train or vehicle                                            |
| <b>mushers</b>     | <i>noun</i>      | people who are in charge of dog sleds                                                  |
| <b>wade</b>        | <i>verb</i>      | to walk through water                                                                  |
| <b>twilight</b>    | <i>noun</i>      | the time when the sun is beyond the horizon, but its light is still visible            |
| <b>eerie</b>       | <i>adjective</i> | mysterious; scary                                                                      |
| <b>plight</b>      | <i>noun</i>      | a struggle; a dangerous and difficult situation                                        |
| <b>epidemic</b>    | <i>noun</i>      | an illness that spreads and affects a lot of people                                    |
| <b>treacherous</b> | <i>adjective</i> | difficult; dangerous                                                                   |
| <b>perished</b>    | <i>verb</i>      | died                                                                                   |

**Spelling** Practice these words with your child.

- |                  |                  |                 |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. analogy       | 8. choreograph   | 15. photograph  |
| 2. apologize     | 9. chronological | 16. psychology  |
| 3. autobiography | 10. ecology      | 17. seismograph |
| 4. autograph     | 11. geography    | 18. slogan      |
| 5. biology       | 12. graphic      | 19. technology  |
| 6. calligraphy   | 13. logical      | 20. telegraph   |
| 7. catalog       | 14. paragraph    |                 |

## Challenge

- |                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. cartography | 2. epilogue | 3. prologue |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will follow the five steps of the writing process to write an opinion essay to answer the question *What rule or law do you think should be changed or eliminated?*

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about direct objects. Then he or she will write sentences to practice using direct objects.

► **DISCUSS** with your child the topic for his or her opinion essay. What rule or law did he or she choose?