



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

## Big Idea: How do adaptations help plants and animals?

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

### This week’s reading selection: *Animal Defense Academy*

**Summary:** Animals use a variety of methods to defend themselves in the wild. Some animals are fast and can run away. Some animals have physical features that offer protection from other animals who might want to eat them. And other animals are excellent at playing hide-and-seek!

► **DISCUSS** with your child different ways that animals and plants protect themselves.

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

<b>prowling</b>	<i>adjective</i>	moving or roaming quietly or secretly
<b>carnivores</b>	<i>noun</i>	animals that eat the flesh of other animals
<b>predators</b>	<i>noun</i>	animals that live by hunting other animals for food
<b>decoy</b>	<i>noun</i>	something or someone used to draw attention away from another
<b>monarch</b>	<i>noun</i>	a large orange and black butterfly found in North America
<b>gland</b>	<i>noun</i>	a part inside the body that takes certain substances from the blood and changes them into chemicals that the body uses or gives off
<b>prairie dogs</b>	<i>noun</i>	animals related to the squirrel that live in underground dens in the prairies of the western United States
<b>scurry</b>	<i>verb</i>	to go or move in a hurry
<b>texture</b>	<i>noun</i>	the look and feel of something
<b>roast</b>	<i>verb</i>	to rest or sleep on a perch as a bird does
<b>mucus</b>	<i>noun</i>	a slimy fluid that coats and protects the inside of the mouth, nose, throat, and other parts of the body
<b>range</b>	<i>noun</i>	a variety of choices within a scale

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

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|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. activist    | 8. ferocious   | 15. mysterious |
| 2. carnivorous | 9. florist     | 16. numerous   |
| 3. cartoonist  | 10. furious    | 17. optimist   |
| 4. cautious    | 11. gracious   | 18. ridiculous |
| 5. chemist     | 12. guitarist  | 19. venomous   |
| 6. colonist    | 13. journalist | 20. zoologist  |
| 7. cyclist     | 14. marvelous  |                |

### Challenge

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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. anonymous | 2. courageous | 3. psychologist |
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### Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will meet in writer’s conferences and receive peer feedback on his or her compare and contrast paragraph.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn how to form complex sentences.

► **ASK** your child to use a complex sentence to describe his or her favorite activity. Have your child identify the independent and dependent clause in the sentence.