



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

Big Idea: What does *respect* mean to you?

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

This week's reading selection: *Little Havana*

Summary: In this realistic story, a girl named Marisa is reluctant to visit her Cuban relatives in Miami, Florida. She is soon drawn in, however, by the sights, sounds, and smells of Little Havana.

Essential Questions: What can learning about your heritage teach you about yourself? How can you have fun by trying new things?

► **DISCUSS** with your child ways that he or she can learn more about family traditions.

Vocabulary

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

ancestors	noun	people from long ago that are directly related to you
elaborate	adjective	made with great care and detail
elegant	adjective	showing refined beauty
exhausted	adjective	very weak or tired
experience	verb	to do or see something, or have something happen to you
frilly	adjective	overly decorated
mingled	verb	moved freely among
muttered	verb	spoke in a low, unclear way
parade	verb	to walk in a way that attracts attention
peered	verb	looked closely at something
recognized	verb	knew or remembered from before
tasted	verb	got the flavor of something

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with long vowels (*e* and *u*), synonyms, and antonyms.

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|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. cedar | 6. open | 11. complex |
| 2. menu | 7. close | 12. confuse |
| 3. truck | 8. music | 13. behind |
| 4. pickup | 9. rewind | 14. first |
| 5. cube | 10. complete | 15. last |

Challenge

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|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 1. simple | 2. huge | 3. gigantic |
|-----------|---------|-------------|

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

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will use checklists to revise, edit, and publish an opinion piece. He or she will then brainstorm with a partner to generate a topic for another opinion piece.

Grammar: Your child will learn about verbs and verb phrases this week. Verbs are action words, (*walk, talk*), and Verb phrases (*has walked, is talking*), consist of main verbs and helping verbs.

► **ASK** your child to describe his or her favorite pastime. Encourage him or her to use precise verbs and verb phrases when speaking.