



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

Big Idea: Why are cycles important in nature?

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

This week's reading selection: *Salmon Creek*

Summary: Near the end of their life cycle, Coho salmon travel from their marine habitat to freshwater rivers and streams. They swim hundreds of miles, dodging predators like bears and eagles, leaping up waterfalls, to arrive exhausted at their birthplace. Once there, they spawn the next generation of salmon.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different cycles and the similarities and differences between the cycles.

Vocabulary Read aloud a definition, and ask your child to identify the correct vocabulary word.

enclosing	<i>verb</i>	surrounding on all sides
lingered	<i>verb</i>	remained
torrent	<i>noun</i>	a fast, heavy stream
smolt	<i>noun</i>	a young salmon
estuary	<i>noun</i>	the mouth of a river, where its stream meets a larger body of water
lazed	<i>verb</i>	relaxed or rested without much activity
quickenings	<i>verb</i>	animating
swelling	<i>verb</i>	growing in size
tattered	<i>adjective</i>	torn or ragged
sheen	<i>noun</i>	a bright reflection; shimmering light
radiant	<i>adjective</i>	rich in color; beautiful
camouflage	<i>verb</i>	to disguise or hide by blending into a background

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. abbreviation | 8. expedition | 15. precipitation |
| 2. ambition | 9. humanity | 16. regulation |
| 3. audition | 10. ignition | 17. resolution |
| 4. composition | 11. inspection | 18. similarity |
| 5. constellation | 12. intention | 19. sincerity |
| 6. disability | 13. population | 20. subscription |
| 7. exception | 14. possibility | |

Challenge

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| 1. crystallization | 2. malnutrition | 3. practicality |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will meet in writer's conferences and receive peer feedback on his or her informational writing.

Grammar: Your child will learn about compound sentences, and then practice writing compound sentences.

► **ASK** your child to use a compound sentence to describe his or her favorite activity.