



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: *The White Spider's Gift*

Summary: In this play, set in ancient Paraguay, kind and noble Piki competes with other village boys to win the hand of the chieftain's daughter. Just when Piki thinks he has lost, a white spider with amazing weaving skills offers to help him.

Essential Questions: What makes somebody a good person? How do actions speak louder than words?

► **DISCUSS** with your child how he or she can be a good sport. Talk about how famous athletes show good sportsmanship and how these actions are forms of respect.

Vocabulary

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

appointed	<i>verb</i>	decided on or set
assemble	<i>verb</i>	to meet or come together
ceremony	<i>noun</i>	an act or acts done on a special or important occasion
compete	<i>verb</i>	to try to win a contest against others
distant	<i>adjective</i>	far off or away
horizon	<i>noun</i>	the line where the earth and the sky seem to meet
noble	<i>adjective</i>	having or showing greatness
prove	<i>verb</i>	to show the truth of
spirit	<i>noun</i>	a supernatural being or essence
straight	<i>adjective</i>	in one direction without changing or bending
throughout	<i>preposition</i>	in every part of
toward	<i>preposition</i>	in the direction of

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

Spelling

Focus: Your child will spell words he or she has practiced throughout this unit.

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|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. choke | 6. complete | 11. paints |
| 2. barnyard | 7. twice | 12. holidays |
| 3. wild | 8. germ | 13. wrote |
| 4. music | 9. since | 14. knife |
| 5. behind | 10. riddles | 15. crumb |

Challenge

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|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. footprints | 2. garbage | 3. people |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish an opinion essay about improving his or her school. He or she will also have the opportunity to present the essay to the class.

Grammar: Your child will review the topics discussed throughout the unit, including nouns, verbs, subjects and predicates, simple sentences, quotation marks, commas, and capitalization.

► **ASK** your child to summarize his or her opinion about how to improve the school. Remind him or her that a summary includes only the main points of the argument.