



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

**Big Idea:** How can we learn from our past?

Your child should think about ways each reading selection over the next six weeks can answer this question.

**This week's reading selection:** *A New Life for Mei*

**Summary:** Mei and Hong are Chinese immigrants who arrive in San Francisco in 1867. While Hong works far away on the Transcontinental Railroad, Mei must support herself as a cook in a city where she is considered an outsider.

**Essential Questions:** How did immigrants help build the country? How would you feel if you had to immigrate to an unfamiliar place?

► **DISCUSS** with your child what it is like to be in a new place.

## Vocabulary

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

<b>accommodate</b>	<i>verb</i>	to do a favor or service for
<b>alley</b>	<i>noun</i>	a narrow street or passageway
<b>apprehensive</b>	<i>adjective</i>	fearful about what may happen
<b>bellowed</b>	<i>verb</i>	cried out in a loud, deep voice
<b>fate</b>	<i>noun</i>	unavoidable lot or fortune
<b>hitch</b>	<i>noun</i>	an unexpected delay or obstacle
<b>link</b>	<i>verb</i>	to join, unite, or connect
<b>proper</b>	<i>adjective</i>	suitable, appropriate, or correct for a given purpose
<b>rush</b>	<i>noun</i>	the act of making a sudden, swift movement
<b>strike</b>	<i>verb</i>	to find suddenly or unexpectedly
<b>temperamental</b>	<i>adjective</i>	showing moodiness, sensitivity, or irritability
<b>tie</b>	<i>noun</i>	part of a structure that holds together other parts

► **HELP** your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

## Spelling

**Focus:** This week your child will spell words with the /ōō/ and /oo/ sounds and words with the inflectional endings *-ing* and *-ed*.

- |            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. took    | 6. named    | 11. brook  |
| 2. shook   | 7. hoping   | 12. pool   |
| 3. broom   | 8. stripped | 13. bored  |
| 4. stood   | 9. scoop    | 14. tried  |
| 5. landing | 10. amazing | 15. timing |

## Challenge

- |            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. staring | 2. admitted | 3. woodwork |
|------------|-------------|-------------|

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

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will learn that narrative writing tells a story and includes characters, setting(s), and a plot. He or she will then work with the rest of the class to plan, draft, and revise a realistic story.

**Grammar:** Your child will also be learning about abstract nouns (*pride, honesty, freedom*) this week.

► **ASK** your child to identify the main characters, setting, and plot events of a favorite book or story.