



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

## Big Idea: What is your relationship with nature?

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

## This week’s reading selection: *The Mystery of Washington Park*

**Summary:** As they romp through the local park, a group of friends stumble across a set of mysterious animal tracks. They look around for the culprit, but come up empty-handed. Eager to solve the mystery, the friends gather all the clues they can find and embark on a search for the identity of the mysterious animal.

► **DISCUSS** with your child different places that nature can be found in everyday life.

**Vocabulary** Have your child make flashcards to practice reading and defining these words.

<b>tagging along</b>	<i>verb phrase</i>	to dutifully follow someone from one place to another
<b>shrieks</b>	<i>verb</i>	utters a loud, sharp cry or scream
<b>guidebook</b>	<i>noun</i>	a book of information about a place, usually intended to be read by visitors
<b>den</b>	<i>noun</i>	a place where animals sleep or rest
<b>tracking</b>	<i>verb</i>	following the markings, path, or course of
<b>stowaways</b>	<i>noun</i>	people or things that secretly board a vehicle and is taken to another place
<b>lecture</b>	<i>noun</i>	an informational talk given to an audience
<b>mutant</b>	<i>adjective</i>	resulting from an unexpected change in genetics
<b>distinctive</b>	<i>adjective</i>	easy to recognize as being different
<b>eliminate</b>	<i>verb</i>	to get rid of; remove
<b>candidates</b>	<i>noun</i>	people or things put forward as a possible option to choose from
<b>omnivorous</b>	<i>adjective</i>	describing an animal, like a human, that eats both meat and plants
<b>snout</b>	<i>noun</i>	the front part of an animal’s head, including the nose and mouth
<b>alarmed</b>	<i>adjective</i>	feeling a sense of danger; suddenly frightened

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

- |             |               |                  |
|-------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. encircle | 8. perceive   | 15. semiannual   |
| 2. encode   | 9. perceptive | 16. semiformal   |
| 3. enforce  | 10. perennial | 17. semiofficial |
| 4. engrave  | 11. perforate | 18. semiprivate  |
| 5. enlist   | 12. perjury   | 19. semisweet    |
| 6. enraged  | 13. perspire  | 20. semitropical |
| 7. envision | 14. pervasive |                  |

### Challenge

1. encapsulate    2. permeate    3. semiconscious

## Language Arts

**Writing:** Your child will draft and revise his or her research report.

**Grammar:** Your child will learn about different types of punctuation to indicate titles of books, stories, songs, poems, and films.

► **WRITE** a list of several books, stories, songs, poems, or films. Then have your child use quotation marks or underlining to correctly punctuate each title.