



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

Big Idea: What is a cycle?

Ask your child how this week's reading selections help him or her answer this question.

This week's reading selections:

Jake's Tree

Summary: Jake writes a poem as he observes the changes of a big tree in his yard during the year.

Essential Question: What changes in nature can you see?

► **DISCUSS** with your child ways that nature changes in your neighborhood.

Journey of a Raindrop

Summary: Raindrops take a trip through the water cycle, starting when they fall to Earth as rain and ending when they become a mist, rise up into the sky, and change back into raindrops.

Essential Question: What happens to water after it rains?

► **HAVE** your child draw a picture of the water cycle and discuss each step.

Vocabulary

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

along	<i>adverb</i>	in a direction toward something else
bud	<i>noun</i>	a small part on a plant that develops into a flower, leaf, or branch
covered	<i>verb</i>	put something over it
cycle	<i>noun</i>	a set of events that happen again and again
evaporate	<i>verb</i>	to go from a liquid to a gas
melted	<i>verb</i>	to gradually become less
shook	<i>verb</i>	to move back and forth with quick movements
studied	<i>verb</i>	to learn about

► **ADD** the vocabulary words to discussions about the selections and science cycles.

Phonics

Focus: Your child will learn the following sounds and spellings: /e/ spelled *_ea_*; /sh/ spelled *sh*; /th/ spelled *th*; and /ch/ spelled *ch*, ■ *tch*.

Words to practice blending with your child include *head, shell, brush, math, thread, check, and catch*.

► **HAVE** your child find words in a children's book that have these sound/spellings. Help your child read the words as necessary.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will complete each step of the writing process as he or she writes a description of an animal.

Grammar: Your child will learn that a declarative sentence is a sentence that tells something and ends with a period (*The giraffe eats leaves.*).

► **ASK** your child to say two declarative sentences. Then help your child write the sentences.