

LESSON
1

Perseverance



You will be receiving one of these letters every week throughout your child’s year of fifth grade. Each letter is a glimpse into what he or she has to focus on during the week in reading and language arts. Use the different sections of this letter to stimulate conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

Big Idea: What do we gain by persevering?

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

This week’s reading selection: *The Marble Champ*

Summary: Lupe Medrano excels at school, but she has never been very good at sports. Wanting to prove that she can also be an athlete, Lupe dedicates herself to becoming a marble champ. After she finishes her training, Lupe enters a local marble competition and takes home the grand trophy.

► **DISCUSS** with your child goals he or she has and different ways to accomplish the goal.

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

chanced	<i>verb</i>	risked
fumed	<i>verb</i>	expressed irritation or anger
rummaged	<i>verb</i>	searched by moving things around
reluctantly	<i>adverb</i>	not wanting to act; unwilling
slate	<i>adjective</i>	a dark gray color
nerves	<i>noun</i>	a state of mind characterized by nervousness or anticipation
quivering	<i>verb</i>	shaking slightly; shivering
instinct	<i>noun</i>	a way of acting without thinking that one is born with or has practiced
glumly	<i>adverb</i>	with disappointment or unhappiness
association	<i>noun</i>	a group of people organized for a common purpose
commotion	<i>noun</i>	disorderly noise; disturbance
privacy	<i>noun</i>	a condition of being alone or not shared with others

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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| 1. arrangement | 8. improvement | 15. nontoxic |
| 2. contentment | 9. loneliness | 16. prearrange |
| 3. endorsement | 10. nastiness | 17. precaution |
| 4. fondness | 11. nonabsorbent | 18. predawn |
| 5. forgiveness | 12. nondescript | 19. prehistoric |
| 6. generousness | 13. nonexistent | 20. preseason |
| 7. government | 14. nonresponsive | |

Challenge

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| 1. nonabrasive | 2. predetermine | 3. queasiness |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will review the five steps of the writing process. They also will learn how to use a TREE graphic organizer to plan a piece of opinion writing.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and use common nouns, proper nouns, abstract nouns, and pronouns.

► **ASK** your child to generate four sentences: one with a common noun, one with a proper noun, one with an abstract noun, and one with a pronoun.