



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

Big Idea: How has the United States changed over time?

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

This week’s reading selection: *The Search for the Mysterious Patriot*

Summary: As the Constitutional Convention convenes to consider ratifying the newly-proposed Constitution, mysterious letters of support begin to appear in three different newspapers. Published under the pseudonym “Publius,” nobody is quite certain who is writing them—but a brother and sister team are prepared to find out!

► **DISCUSS** with your child some advantages of a democratic government.

Vocabulary Read aloud a definition and ask your child to identify the correct vocabulary word.

intently	<i>adverb</i>	with the mind firmly fixed on something
cede	<i>verb</i>	to release or yield
bothersome	<i>adjective</i>	something that is troubling or annoying
divulge	<i>verb</i>	to release previously unknown information
scandal	<i>noun</i>	an action or actions that are perceived as wrong and which causes anger
staunch	<i>adjective</i>	firmly committed to an idea
mere	<i>adjective</i>	nothing more than; only
hunch	<i>noun</i>	a guess or feeling about what will happen
considerable	<i>adjective</i>	great in amount or extent
in the nick of time	<i>adverbial phrase</i>	just before it is too late
ruffian	<i>noun</i>	a villain or scoundrel
respects	<i>noun</i>	regards or greetings

Spelling Practice these words with your child.

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|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. bandage | 8. forgery | 15. nursery |
| 2. blustery | 9. gallery | 16. orphanage |
| 3. bribery | 10. Jamaican | 17. rummage |
| 4. cemetery | 11. librarian | 18. slavery |
| 5. comedian | 12. marriage | 19. vegetarian |
| 6. damage | 13. monastery | 20. wintery |
| 7. eatery | 14. musician | |

Challenge

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| 1. dietician | 2. scrimmage | 3. treachery |
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Language Arts

Writing: Your child will use a previously-read fiction selection as the topic of a response to literature paragraph.

Grammar: Your child will learn about, identify, and practice using comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs.

► **ASK** your child to use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs to compare his or her two favorite activities.