

Family-School Connection

Highlights of the Unit:

How does our environment affect us?

Dear Family,

How does our environment affect us? How can an environment affect lives and relationships? In this unit, students address these questions and others by reading traditional tales. After learning what good writers do, they write their own personal narratives.

READING

Students read traditional tales (folktales and myths) to understand their elements. They also read realistic fiction and informational text. They learn about figurative language, graphic features, and imagery. They also learn about the **VC/CV** syllable pattern, the **-s, -es, -es** inflected endings, **-ing, -ed, -er,** and **-est** base word endings, the **ee, ea, ai, ay, ow, oa** vowel digraphs, and the **ou, ow, oi, oy** diphthongs.

This unit's learning and work will help your child with the following **skills**:

- ★ Analyzing plot, setting, and characters
- ★ Analyzing descriptive language
- ★ Inferring theme
- ★ Describing how imagery, and other literary devices, achieve specific purposes
- ★ Analyzing text features

Ways to Help Your Child: When you talk about this unit's activities, the following topics and questions may help start the conversation.

- ★ What text features have you learned about?
- ★ You learned new words in your readings! What do you remember about them?

WRITING

In this unit, students consider how to develop a detailed and interesting personal narrative. They learn about simple sentences, subjects and predicates, compound sentences, compound subjects and predicates, and common and proper nouns.

This unit's learning and work will help your child with the following **skills**:

- ★ Developing a sequence of events
- ★ Composing dialogue
- ★ Developing characters, setting, problem, and resolution
- ★ Describing actions, thoughts, and feelings
- ★ Revising, editing, and publishing writing

Ways to Help Your Child: The following topics and questions may help start a conversation.

- ★ What event did you choose to write about in your personal narrative? Why?
- ★ What is your favorite part of your personal narrative? Why?

PROJECT-BASED INQUIRY

In this unit's Project-Based Inquiry, students research what could be done to make a local park or playground safer. They compose a letter to the town's mayor or a park official to explain their opinions about how to improve safety at the park or playground.

Thank you for your continuing support!