

Family-School Connection

Highlights of the Unit:

How does the world challenge us?

Dear Family,

How does the world challenge us? How can nature change people's lives? In this unit, students address these questions and others by reading informational text. They also learn about natural disasters from procedural texts, historical fiction, and traditional tales. They learn about the sound and structure of poetry and write their own poems.

READING

Students read informational text about natural disasters and their effect on people. They also learn about the **au, aw, ai, augh, ough, ei, eigh** vowel patterns, the schwa, the **-en** suffix, and the **-le, -ture, -ive, -ize** final stable syllables.

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

- ★ Analyzing text features
- ★ Analyzing point of view
- ★ Analyzing text structure
- ★ Inferring theme

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

- ★ Tell me about your Book Club book.
- ★ Can you show me some of the new words in your book?

WRITING

In this unit, students learn to write their own poetry. They learn about comparing with adjectives and adverbs, using complex sentences, pronoun-antecedent agreement, and comma uses.

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

- ★ Composing with imagery and figurative language
- ★ Developing a structure through line breaks and stanzas
- ★ Composing with rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration
- ★ Revising for word choice

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

- ★ What are some rhyming word pairs in your poem?
- ★ What is your poem about?

PROJECT-BASED INQUIRY

In this unit's Project-Based Inquiry, students research life in communities that are affected by natural disasters. Students compose a travel brochure that persuades readers to visit—or not visit—a place affected by natural disasters.

Thank you for your continuing support!