



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

Big Idea: What does *respect* mean to you?

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

This week's reading selection: *Little Havana*

Summary: In this realistic story, a girl named Marisa is reluctant to visit her Cuban relatives in Miami, Florida. She is soon drawn in, however, by the sights, sounds, and smells of Little Havana.

Essential Questions: What can learning about your heritage teach you about yourself? How can you have fun by trying new things?

► **DISCUSS** with your child ways that he or she can learn more about family traditions.

Vocabulary

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

ancestors	<i>noun</i>	people from long ago that are directly related to you
elaborate	<i>adjective</i>	made with great care and detail
elegant	<i>adjective</i>	showing refined beauty
exhausted	<i>adjective</i>	very weak or tired
experience	<i>verb</i>	to do or see something, or have something happen to you
frilly	<i>adjective</i>	overly decorated
mingled	<i>verb</i>	moved freely among
muttered	<i>verb</i>	spoke in a low, unclear way
parade	<i>verb</i>	to walk in a way that attracts attention
peered	<i>verb</i>	looked closely at something
recognized	<i>verb</i>	knew or remembered from before
tasted	<i>verb</i>	got the flavor of something

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with long vowels (*e* and *u*), synonyms, and antonyms.

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|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. cedar | 6. open | 11. complex |
| 2. menu | 7. close | 12. confuse |
| 3. truck | 8. music | 13. behind |
| 4. pickup | 9. rewind | 14. first |
| 5. cube | 10. complete | 15. last |

Challenge

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
| 1. simple | 2. huge | 3. gigantic |
|-----------|---------|-------------|

► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will use checklists to revise, edit, and publish an opinion piece. He or she will then brainstorm with a partner to generate a topic for another opinion piece.

Grammar: Your child will learn about verbs and verb phrases this week. Verbs are action words, (*walk, talk*), and Verb phrases (*has walked, is talking*), consist of main verbs and helping verbs.

► **ASK** your child to describe his or her favorite pastime. Encourage him or her to use precise verbs and verb phrases when speaking.