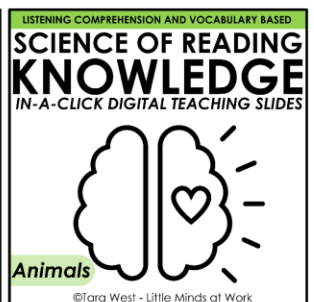
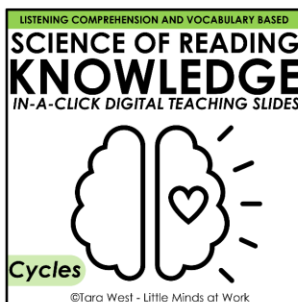
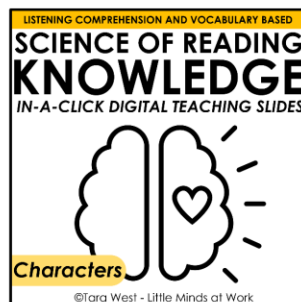
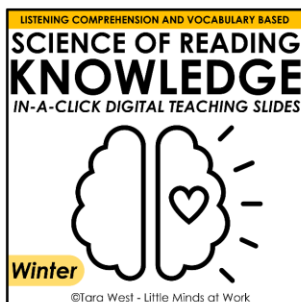
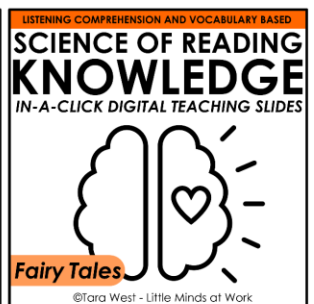
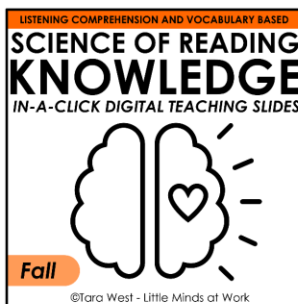
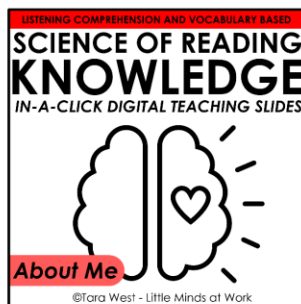
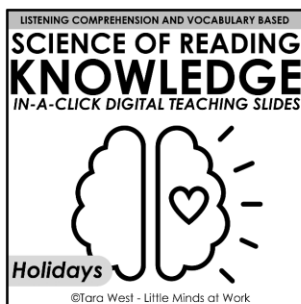


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**LISTENING COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY BASED**

# **SCIENCE OF READING KNOWLEDGE**

***IN-A-CLICK DIGITAL TEACHING SLIDES***



# Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

## Home Connection



This week, we're diving into the shimmering underwater world of *The Rainbow Fish*! In this beautiful story, a dazzling fish learns the joy of sharing and discovers what it truly means to be part of a community. With its vibrant illustrations and heartwarming message, this book teaches children about kindness, generosity, and the value of friendship. Our classroom discussions will focus on how sharing can make everyone feel happier and more connected. Ask your child how they think sharing makes the world a brighter place, just like Rainbow Fish.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**glide:** to move slowly back and forth without effort

**shocked:** a sudden and powerful feeling

**wise:** smart

**shimmer:** to shine with a flickering light

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. How did Rainbow Fish feel about giving away his shiny scales at first?
2. What did Rainbow Fish do to make friends?
3. Why do you think sharing made Rainbow Fish happy?

### Let's Extend

Make your own sparkly fish with a paper plate or cutout, markers, and foil scales. Write kind actions or words on each shiny scale. Talk about how sharing makes everyone feel happy. For extra fun, create an ocean scene in a shoebox with paper fish, seaweed, and shells.

# Huggapotamus by Steve Metzger

## Home Connection



Get ready to meet the cuddliest creature in the jungle with *Huggapotamus*! This sweet and funny tale introduces us to a hippo who loves to give big, squishy hugs. Sometimes, his hugs are a little too much for his friends, but he learns how to respect personal space and still show his love. This week, we're talking about boundaries, expressing affection, and being considerate of others. Ask your child what they think makes a good hug and why it's important to listen to our friends.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**sigh:** to breathe out a long breath

**waddle:** to walk in short steps back and forth

**skidded:** to suddenly slide sideways

**spotted:** to notice or see

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What problem did the Huggapotamus have with his hugs?
2. How did Huggapotamus solve the problem with his friends?
3. Why is it important to listen to your friends?

### Let's Extend

Create a "Hug Chain" at home by writing or drawing kind actions or qualities of a good friend on paper strips. Connect the strips into a chain to symbolize friendship. Hang it up as a reminder of kindness, and talk with your family about what makes a great friend.

# Apples for Everyone by Jill Esbaum

## Home Connection



Fall is in the air, and we're celebrating with *Apples for Everyone*! This vibrant, nonfiction book takes us through the life cycle of an apple, from blossoms to harvest. It's filled with stunning photography and fun facts about one of autumn's favorite treats. Ask your child what they've discovered about apples and maybe even try an apple-tasting activity at home!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**bloom:** produces a flower

**ripe:** to be fully grown

**thud:** the sound of one thing hitting another

**dribble:** to drip slowly

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do apples look like when they grow on trees?
2. What are some things you can make with apples?
3. How are apples picked from trees?

### Let's Extend

Cut open an apple and observe its seeds, then use the halves to stamp paint designs. Bake something simple, like apple muffins, and discuss how apples change when cooked. Draw or write a short story about your "apple's journey" from tree to snack.

# A Tree for All Seasons by Robin Bernard

## Home Connection



Trees are amazing, and this week we're learning why with *A Tree for All Seasons*! This nonfiction book shows how trees change throughout the year, providing a home for animals and beauty for us to enjoy. With colorful pictures and easy-to-understand text, it's perfect for young nature enthusiasts. Our theme this week is seasonal changes and how living things adapt. Encourage your child to look for signs of the current season in your neighborhood and share what they've learned.

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**bare:** not filled or covered

**cozy:** giving a feeling of warmth

**collect:** to gather

**chilly:** to feel cold

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. How does a tree look different in each season?
2. What happens to a tree's leaves in the fall?
3. Can you name an animal that lives in or around a tree?

## Let's Extend

Draw a tree divided into four sections to represent the seasons, adding leaves, blossoms, or snow. Go outside and observe a nearby tree, then draw it as it looks today. If you have leaves, make rubbings or create a collage with them.

# Firefighters Help by Dee Ready

## Home Connection



Who are the heroes in our community? This week, we're exploring the exciting world of firefighting with *Firefighters Help*. This book gives children an up-close look at the brave men and women who keep us safe. It's full of real photos and fascinating details about fire trucks, fire gear, and the teamwork it takes to do the job. Our discussions will focus on safety, helping others, and being part of a community. Ask your child what they've learned about fire safety and the tools firefighters use.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**emergency:** a serious situation

**visit:** to go or see someone

**tank:** a container that holds oxygen

**pump:** a machine for moving liquid

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What kinds of things do firefighters do to help people?
2. What special clothes do firefighters wear?
3. How do firefighters get to a fire quickly?

### Let's Extend

Design a firefighter hat with construction paper and practice a home fire drill with your family. Draw a fire truck and label its parts or write a thank-you note to your local fire station. Create a fire safety poster to share what you've learned.

# Helpers in My Community by Bobbie Kalman

## Home Connection



From teachers to mail carriers, we're learning about all the people who make our community run smoothly with *Helpers in My Community*! This nonfiction book introduces kids to various professions and emphasizes the importance of teamwork and gratitude. This week, we're focusing on the many ways we can help others and say thank you. Ask your child which community helper they'd like to be and why!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**community:** a place where many people live and work together

**building:** a structure where people live or work

**risk:** a chance of getting hurt or losing something

**volunteer:** a kind person who helps others and does not get paid for it

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Can you name some of the helpers in your community?
2. How do teachers help people in the community?
3. What is one way you can help your community?

### Let's Extend

Draw a neighborhood map and label community helpers like firefighters and nurses. Write a thank-you note and draw a picture for a helper you know. If you have costumes, pretend to be helpers and act out how they make a difference.



# Hogwash by Karma Wilson

## Home Connection



Splish, splash, it's time for a barnyard bath! *Hogwash* is a hilarious rhyming story about a farmer who just can't get his pigs to take a bath. The playful language and silly antics will have everyone giggling as we learn about problem-solving and creative thinking. This week, we're talking about how we can make chores fun and why it's important to stay clean. Ask your child what their favorite part of the story was and how they might convince a pig to take a bath!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**plan:** an action you intend to take

**fetched:** to get and bring back

**filthy:** very dirty

**pondered:** to think about something deeply and carefully

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Why didn't the pigs want a bath?
2. What funny things happened when Farmer tried to wash the pigs?
3. What did the pigs finally do at the end?

### Let's Extend

Make bubble art with soapy water and paint to create fun designs. Draw a muddy pig and a clean pig, then talk about the importance of keeping clean. Write a short story about a pig who learns to love bath time.



# Scarecrow by Cynthia Rylant

## Home Connection



What secrets does a scarecrow hold? *Scarecrow* by Cynthia Rylant is a poetic and gentle look at the life of a scarecrow standing guard over the fields. With its dreamy illustrations and heartfelt text, this book invites children to appreciate the quiet beauty of nature and the changing seasons. This week, we're discussing mindfulness and finding joy in simple moments. Ask your child what they think the scarecrow might see or feel during its time in the field.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**chat:** a friendly conversation

**mammoth:** enormous or very large

**dawn:** the first daylight that appears in the morning

**lapel:** the folded down part on a shirt's collar

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What is the scarecrow's job in the field?
2. How does the scarecrow feel about the birds?
3. What happens when the seasons change around the scarecrow?

### Let's Extend

Make a mini scarecrow using sticks, fabric, and straw or crumpled paper. Write a story about your scarecrow's adventures protecting a field. If you have paints, draw a colorful harvest scene with your scarecrow standing tall.

# Pumpkin Town by Katie McKy

## Home Connection



Things get a little wild in *Pumpkin Town*! This quirky story tells how one small mistake turns a quiet town into a pumpkin-filled adventure. It's a great read for autumn, full of laughs and lessons about responsibility and teamwork. This week, we're talking about problem-solving and working together to fix mistakes. Ask your child what they learned about pumpkins and how they think the townspeople felt after cleaning up their big mess.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**dull:** not shiny

**delicate:** easily broken

**sag:** to hang down

**marvel:** to be amazed

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What did the family in Pumpkin Town grow?
2. What happened when the pumpkins rolled into town?
3. How did the family fix the problem they caused?

### Let's Extend

Decorate a pumpkin with markers, stickers, or craft supplies. Write a story about your pumpkin's life in Pumpkin Town. If possible, plant pumpkin seeds and watch them grow, or create a pumpkin-themed snack like roasted seeds.

# Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

## Home Connection



This week, we're soaring into the story of *Stellaluna*, a baby bat who finds herself in a nest of birds. As she learns to adapt to her new home, Stellaluna discovers the importance of being true to herself. With its stunning illustrations and touching message, this book teaches children about differences, acceptance, and identity. Ask your child what they thought about Stellaluna's journey and what makes them unique.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**clutch:** hold tightly

**swoop:** to sweep down from above suddenly

**clamber:** climb in an awkward way

**curious:** to be eager to learn more

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What happened to Stellaluna when she got lost?
2. How did Stellaluna make friends with the birds?
3. What did Stellaluna learn about being different?

### Let's Extend

Craft a bat using paper or felt and hang it upside down in your house. Write or draw Stellaluna's next adventure with her bird friends. Learn a fun fact about bats and share it with your family. You can also compare bats and birds by drawing a simple chart.

# Owls by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



We're swooping into the fascinating world of owls this week with *Owls* by Laura Marsh! This nonfiction book is packed with fun facts, amazing photos, and easy-to-read text about these mysterious nighttime creatures. Kids will learn about owl habits, habitats, and their incredible adaptations for hunting. Our theme this week is animals in nature and their unique traits. Encourage your child to share their favorite owl fact with you!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**owlet:** a baby owl

**wingspan:** length from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other

**camouflage:** an animal's natural color or shape that blends in

**talons:** sharp claws on birds that hunt and eat meat

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do owls eat?
2. Where do owls live?
3. How do owls see at night?
4. What makes owls different from other birds?

### Let's Extend

Create a paper plate owl by cutting and gluing feathers or using markers to design its features. Research a fun fact about owls and write it below your craft. Go outside at night (if safe) and listen for sounds of owls or other nocturnal animals. For extra fun, read the book again and try to mimic owl hoots.

# Spiders by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



Creepy, crawly, and completely captivating! This week, we're reading *Spiders* by Laura Marsh. This nonfiction book introduces kids to the amazing world of spiders, teaching them about their habitats, webs, and hunting techniques. Our theme is respect for all living creatures, even the ones we find a little scary. Ask your child which spider fact surprised them the most and why they think spiders are important in nature.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**fangs:** a biting mouthpart of a spider

**prey:** an animal that is eaten by other animals

**venom:** poison

**egg sac:** a silk pouch that protects and holds spider eggs

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do spiders use their webs for?
2. How are spiders different from insects?
3. Why are spiders helpful?
4. What was your favorite spider fact from the book?

### Let's Extend

Use string or yarn to create a spiderweb on paper or between two chairs. Make a spider from pipe cleaners and act out catching flies in your web. Write a fun fact about spiders and share it with someone. Draw a picture of a spider in its habitat with lots of tiny insects.

# Three Pigs by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



The classic tale gets a fresh retelling in *Three Pigs* by Paul Galdone! This humorous and engaging version of the well-loved story introduces kids to the value of hard work and perseverance. The pigs' adventures will spark discussions about making wise choices and thinking ahead. Ask your child which pig's house they think was the best and why!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**fortune:** a large amount of money or wealth

**bundle:** a group of items that have been tied together

**huff:** breathe hard

**blaze:** a bright flame or fire

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What were the houses made of in the story?
2. What did the wolf do to the first two houses?
3. How did the pigs trick the wolf at the end?

## Let's Extend

Build houses from different materials, like straw, sticks, and blocks, then test their strength by gently blowing on them. Draw your favorite pig's house and label its materials. Write a new version of the story where the pigs work together to build one strong house.

# Three Bears by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



Goldilocks and the bears are back in *Three Bears* by Paul Galdone! This charming retelling of the classic tale will have kids exploring themes of curiosity, consequences, and respect for others' belongings. Our classroom focus this week is on making good choices and being mindful of others. Ask your child how they might have handled Goldilocks' situation differently.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**cooled:** let something not be so hot

**peek:** look quickly

**trust:** rely on honesty

**frightened:** cause fear or scare

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Who went inside the bears' house?
2. What happened to the bears' porridge?
3. What did Goldilocks do when the bears came home?

### Let's Extend

Make porridge (or oatmeal) together and test different temperatures until it's "just right." Create or draw beds and chairs for the bears using paper or small household items. Write a letter to Goldilocks explaining how the bears feel about her visit.



# Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



Get ready for some troll trouble! *Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Paul Galdone is an exciting tale of bravery, clever thinking, and standing up for what's right. This week, we're talking about overcoming fears and using problem-solving skills to face challenges. Ask your child which billy goat was their favorite and how they might outsmart the troll!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**valley:** long area of low land between two mountains

**ushing:** move quickly

**roared:** make a deep shout in anger

**trampled:** to be stepped on or crushed

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Why did the goats want to cross the bridge?
2. Who was under the bridge?
3. How did the biggest goat get rid of the troll?

### Let's Extend

Use blocks or books to build a bridge and act out the story with toy animals or figures. Draw or paint a troll to place under the bridge. Write a short version of the story where the troll becomes friends with the goats instead.

# Jack and the Beanstalk by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



Adventure awaits in *Jack and the Beanstalk* by Paul Galdone! This timeless story of courage and resourcefulness encourages kids to think about consequences and taking responsibility for their actions. With its magical elements and exciting plot, it's sure to spark their imagination. Ask your child what they would do if they found a magic bean!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**surveyed:** looked at closely

**savory:** having a pleasant taste or smell

**glee:** a feeling of delight or joy

**rare:** not often found or seen

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What did Jack trade for the magic beans?
2. What grew from the magic beans?
3. What did Jack find at the top of the beanstalk?

## Let's Extend

Plant a bean in a small pot and decorate the pot with pictures from the story. Write or draw what you imagine Jack found at the top of the beanstalk. Create a "giant" character by drawing or crafting a large face or figure.

# The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



“Who will help me bake the bread?” This week, we’re enjoying the timeless tale of *The Little Red Hen*. This classic story teaches children about hard work, teamwork, and the rewards of perseverance. The Little Red Hen’s determination and self-reliance inspire great classroom discussion about responsibility and helping others. Ask your child how they think the story would change if everyone pitched in to help the hen.

### Let’s Explore Vocabulary

**cozy:** warm and snug

**snooze:** to sleep for a short amount of time

**mend:** repair or fix

**grind:** crush into small pieces

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let’s Comprehend

1. What did the Little Red Hen want to make?
2. Did her friends help her? Why or why not?
3. What lesson did the friends learn at the end?

### Let’s Extend

Bake bread or muffins together as a family and talk about teamwork. Write a short story about how the hen felt after the other animals helped her. Create a farm scene using paper or toys and place the Little Red Hen in it.

# Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone

## Home Connection



Get ready to chase after the delicious *Gingerbread Boy*! This lively retelling of the classic tale keeps kids engaged with its rhymes and humor while teaching the importance of listening and making smart decisions. This week, we're focusing on cause and effect as we follow the Gingerbread Boy's adventure. Ask your child what they would have done differently if they were the Gingerbread Boy!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**row:** group of things arranged in a straight-line side-by-side

**field:** a wide area of open land

**wide:** reach across a large area from side to side

**dared:** to be careless enough to do something

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What did the gingerbread boy do after he came out of the oven?
2. Who chased the gingerbread boy?
3. How did the fox trick the gingerbread boy?

## Let's Extend

Decorate a gingerbread cookie or draw a gingerbread person on paper and design its outfit. Write a short story about where the Gingerbread Boy runs next. If you have a rolling pin, use playdough to shape or "bake" pretend cookies.

# Reindeer by Kate Marsico

## Home Connection



This week, we're leaping into the fascinating world of *Reindeer*! This nonfiction book is packed with fun facts about these majestic animals, from their habitats to their incredible migrations. Kids will explore themes of adaptation and survival while learning about the important role reindeer play in various cultures. Ask your child to share their favorite reindeer fact with you!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**antlers:** hard body parts that grow from a reindeer's head

**hooves:** the feet of a reindeer

**Arctic:** an area surrounding the North Pole

**active:** to be busy doing lots of things

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do reindeer eat?
2. Where do reindeer live?
3. How do reindeer stay warm in the cold?

### Let's Extend

Make antlers with a headband and paper. Learn a fun fact about reindeer and draw a picture of them in their snowy habitat. Write a story about how reindeer are unique animals.

# The Mitten by Jan Brett

## Home Connection



What happens when a mitten gets lost in the snow? *The Mitten* by Jan Brett is a delightful winter tale filled with animal antics and beautiful illustrations. This week, we're exploring themes of sharing, cooperation, and creative problem-solving. Ask your child which animal in the story was their favorite and why they think the mitten was such a cozy spot!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**commotion:** a noisy disturbance

**grumble:** to mutter complaints

**talons:** a bird's claws

**investigate:** search or examine

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What happened when the animals found the mitten?
2. Why did the mitten get so big?
3. What did the boy do when he found his mitten again?

### Let's Extend

Trace and cut out a mitten shape, then decorate it with animals from the story. Write about what you think might happen if new animals tried to fit inside. Create a "mitten hideout" with a small blanket and stuffed animals to play out the story.

# The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

## Home Connection



Snowy adventures await in *The Snowy Day*! This classic story captures the wonder of a child's first exploration of freshly fallen snow. With its simple text and vibrant illustrations, the book celebrates curiosity, imagination, and the magic of everyday experiences. Ask your child what their favorite snowy activity is and how they would spend their own snowy day!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**path:** track beaten by people or animals

**sank:** settled or covered

**pretend:** to imagine or believe

**firm:** hard or solid when pressed

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What did Peter see outside when he woke up?
2. What did Peter do with a stick in the snow?
3. How did Peter feel about his snowy day?

### Let's Extend

Use shaving cream or flour to make pretend snow and create tracks like Peter did. Draw or paint a snowy scene and add Peter in his red coat. Write about your favorite snowy day activity or imagine what Peter does next in the snow.



# Penguins by Anne Schreiber

## Home Connection



This week, we're waddling into the amazing world of *Penguins*! This nonfiction book introduces kids to the unique characteristics and behaviors of penguins, from how they stay warm to their fascinating life in icy habitats. Our discussions will focus on animal adaptations and teamwork in nature. Ask your child to tell you something new they learned about these incredible birds!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**coast:** where the land meets water

**webbed:** to be connected by skin

**barb:** something pointy and sharp like a hook

**colony:** a group of animals that live together

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Where do penguins live?
2. How do penguins stay warm in the cold?
3. What do penguins eat?

### Let's Extend

Craft a penguin using a sock stuffed with cotton or paper. Learn a fact about penguins and write it on a small card. Draw a penguin family in their icy habitat and talk about how they stay warm together.

# Polar Bears by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



How do polar bears survive in the Arctic? This week, we're reading *Polar Bears* by Laura Marsh, a nonfiction book filled with interesting facts and vivid photos of these majestic creatures. Children will learn about the polar bears' unique adaptations, hunting skills, and the challenges they face. Ask your child why they think polar bears are important and what we can do to protect them!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**float:** means to rest or move in water without sinking

**snatch:** means to grab quickly

**cub:** a baby bear

**den:** a hidden hole where a wild animal lives

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. How do polar bears hunt for food?
2. Why do polar bears have white fur?
3. Where do polar bears live?

### Let's Extend

Make a polar bear using white paint and sponges or draw it on black paper. Write a few sentences about how polar bears survive in the cold. Pretend to be a polar bear walking on ice and act out catching a fish.

# Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

## Home Connection



Shhh... Bear is sleeping! *Bear Snores On* is a fun and cozy tale about friendship and sharing. As Bear hibernates, his friends gather in his cave for a lively party—but what happens when he wakes up? This week, we're talking about kindness, inclusion, and making new friends. Ask your child how they think Bear felt when he joined the group!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**divvy:** divide up and share

**clutter:** crowded together

**fret:** feeling worried or unsure

**blustery:** cold and windy

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What were the animals doing in Bear's cave?
2. Why was Bear sleeping so long?
3. How did Bear feel when he woke up?

### Let's Extend

Build a cozy "cave" with pillows and blankets and pretend to hibernate like Bear. Write a short story about what Bear dreams of while he's asleep. Draw or list the animals that visit him in the cave and add new ones if you like.

# Ron's Big Mission by Corinne Naden

## Home Connection



This week, we're inspired by the true story of *Ron's Big Mission*. This powerful book tells the story of young Ron McNair, who stood up for his right to borrow books from the library. Children will learn about courage, equality, and the importance of standing up for what is right. Ask your child what they think it means to be brave and how Ron's actions made a difference.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**nervous:** a feeling of being anxious or fearful

**serious:** something is important and not meant to be silly or a joke

**budge:** change position slightly

**tucked:** to place in a snug, secured way

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What did Ron want to do at the library?
2. Why wouldn't they let Ron check out books at first?
3. How did Ron change the rules at the library?

### Let's Extend

Write about a time you were brave like Ron. Create a badge of courage by cutting and coloring a star on paper. Talk with your family about how they can show bravery in their own lives.

# Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed

## Home Connection



Dream big! *Mae Among the Stars* tells the story of young Mae Jemison, who went on to become the first black woman in space. This inspiring book encourages children to follow their dreams and work hard to achieve their goals. This week, we're discussing perseverance, ambition, and the value of believing in yourself. Ask your child what their big dream is and how they can work towards making it come true!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**assignment:** job or task that is given to someone

**astronaut:** person who travels into outer space

**profession:** type of job that requires special training

**disappointed:** feeling of sadness

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What inspired Mae to want to go to space?
2. How did Mae's parents encourage her dreams?
3. What challenges did Mae face as she worked toward becoming an astronaut?

## Let's Extend

Make a rocket with recycled materials and decorate it with stars and planets. Write about what you'd bring on a journey to space. Learn about a real astronaut and draw or write their story alongside Mae's.

# Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

## Home Connection



Jump right in with *Jabari Jumps*! This heartwarming story follows Jabari as he overcomes his fear of jumping off the diving board. With gentle encouragement from his dad, Jabari learns about bravery, self-confidence, and taking big steps in life. This week, we're discussing how to face fears and try new things. Ask your child what they think helped Jabari take the leap!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**spread:** open something out wide or make it cover a bigger area

**sprang:** to have moved forward or upward suddenly

**rough:** having a surface that is not even or smooth

**double:** having two of something or making twice as much

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Why was Jabari nervous about jumping off the diving board?
2. How did Jabari's dad help him feel more confident?
3. What did Jabari do to prepare for his jump?

### Let's Extend

Use a small stool or step as a pretend diving board and practice "jumps" into a safe area. Write or draw about a time you were brave like Jabari. Create a water-themed painting by using watercolor or sponges.

# The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad

## Home Connection



This week, we're exploring *The Proudest Blue*, a story about a young girl and her sister experiencing the first day of school in a brand-new hijab. Written by Olympic medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad, this book celebrates identity, strength, and family pride. Our discussions will focus on embracing diversity and standing tall in the face of challenges. Ask your child how they celebrate what makes them unique!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**counter:** long surface in a store where people can put their items

**squint:** partly close your eyes, like when you are trying to see

**pounding:** hitting or pressing something hard over and over

**pavement:** hard, flat surface we walk or drive on

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. Why was Asiya proud to wear her blue hijab?
2. How did Faizah feel about her sister wearing the hijab?
3. What challenges did Asiya face at school, and how did she handle them?

## Let's Extend

Write a sentence about what makes you feel proud, just like Asiya. Draw a picture of yourself wearing something that shows your individuality.



# Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell

## Home Connection



This week, we're meeting the unforgettable *Molly Lou Melon*! With her quirky traits and unwavering confidence, Molly Lou teaches children about self-esteem and staying true to themselves. This charming story will inspire great conversations about embracing differences and finding strength within. Ask your child what they think makes Molly Lou Melon so special!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**proudly:** doing something in a way that shows you feel happy

**fumble:** handle something clumsily or have trouble holding it

**glee:** great delight or joy

**revealed:** to show

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What made Molly Lou Melon different from the other kids?
2. How did Molly Lou respond when others teased her?
3. What did Molly Lou's grandmother teach her about being confident?

## Let's Extend

Create a confidence poster with your strengths and talents. Write a thank-you letter to someone who has helped you feel strong like Molly Lou. Draw or act out a scene where you stand tall in a challenging situation.

# Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson

## Home Connection



Kindness matters. This week, we're reading *Each Kindness*, a poignant story about missed opportunities to show compassion. As Chloe reflects on how her actions affected a new girl in class, children will learn about empathy, kindness, and the importance of small gestures. Ask your child how they can show kindness to others every day.

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**brilliant:** very shiny or bright; glittering

**thawed:** to change from a frozen solid to a liquid

**ripple:** to move slow or flow in small waves

**announced:** make known; declare

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. Why didn't Chloe and her classmates include Maya?
2. How did Maya try to make friends with her classmates?
3. What did Chloe realize after Maya left the school?

## Let's Extend

Find small stones and write or draw kind actions on them, then place them somewhere special. Write about a time you showed kindness or wished you had. Create a kindness jar with ideas for nice things to do for others.

# Moon by Melanie Mitchell

## Home Connection



This week, we're reaching for the stars with *Moon* by Melanie Mitchell! This nonfiction book is filled with stunning photographs and fascinating facts about the moon—from its phases to its role in space exploration. Kids will learn about the moon's importance to Earth. Ask your child what they found most exciting about the moon and why!

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**glow:** to shine brightly

**neighbor:** someone or something near or next to another

**rock:** hard, naturally formed material

**craters:** holes in the ground that are shaped like bowls

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What does the moon look like at night?
2. Why does the moon look different on different nights?
3. What did astronauts do when they visited the moon?

## Let's Extend

Create a drawing of the moon phases and label them. Use a flashlight and a ball to mimic how the moon orbits Earth. Write or draw about what you would do if you visited the moon. For a creative twist, design your own moon habitat using paper and recycled materials.

# Chicken Life Cycle by David Schwartz

## Home Connection



Where do chickens come from? *Chicken Life Cycle* by David Schwartz answers this question with engaging text and vibrant photos. This week, we're learning about life cycles, growth, and the wonders of nature. Kids will be fascinated by the journey from egg to chicken. Ask your child what step of the life cycle they found most surprising!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**strut:** walk in a very proud way

**brood:** to sit upon eggs

**weak:** not strong

**replace:** take the place of or change out

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What hatches from a chicken egg?
2. What do baby chicks need to grow?
3. How does a chicken grow from a chick?

### Let's Extend

Make a "life cycle wheel" by drawing and coloring the stages of a chicken's life on a paper plate. Write a few sentences about each stage, from egg to adult chicken. If you have access to eggs, carefully observe their shell and yolk, and discuss how chicks develop inside. Draw a chicken coop and imagine what it's like to care for chickens.

# Frogs by Elizabeth Carney

## Home Connection



Hop into the world of *Frogs* by Elizabeth Carney! This nonfiction book is full of captivating facts about these amazing amphibians, from their habitats to their fascinating life cycle. Kids will explore themes of adaptation and survival as they learn how frogs transform from tadpoles to adult frogs. Ask your child which stage of the frog's life cycle they found the most interesting and why!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**habitat:** the natural place where a plant or animal lives

**croak:** a deep, hoarse noise that a frog makes

**poison:** something that can kill or hurt living things

**gills:** body parts that a fish or tadpole uses to breathe

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Where do frogs live?
2. What do frogs eat?
3. How do frogs grow from eggs?

### Let's Extend

Draw or paint the life cycle of a frog, starting with the egg. Write a few sentences about how frogs grow and what they eat. If possible, find a small pond or puddle nearby and look for tadpoles or frogs. Make a frog mask using paper plates and pretend to hop around like a frog.

# Butterflies by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



Flutter into the magical world of *Butterflies*! This nonfiction book by Laura Marsh introduces kids to the fascinating life of butterflies, from their metamorphosis to their vibrant wings and pollination role. Children will explore the stages of a butterfly's life cycle and learn why these beautiful creatures are so important to our ecosystem. Ask your child which butterfly fact surprised them the most and why they think butterflies are nature's jewels!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**migration:** moving from one region or habitat to another

**instinct:** the behavior that animals and people are born knowing

**generation:** time it takes for a living thing to grow up and reproduce

**chrysalis:** insect between larva and adult stage in a hardened case

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do butterflies eat?
2. How does a caterpillar change into a butterfly?
3. Why are butterflies colorful?

### Let's Extend

Use coffee filters and markers to create colorful butterfly crafts. Write about the butterfly life cycle or draw the stages in order. Go outside and look for butterflies or other insects in your area, then draw what you find. Imagine being a butterfly for a day and write a short story about your adventures.

# Seed to Plant by Kristin Rattini

## Home Connection



This week, we're planting the seeds of curiosity with *Seed to Plant* by Kristin Rattini. This informative book explains how tiny seeds grow into plants and trees all around us. With vivid photos and simple text, it's perfect for teaching kids about plant life cycles and the importance of nature. Ask your child what they learned about how plants grow and what their favorite plant is.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**germination:** the sprouting of a new plant from a seed

**soil:** the top layer of earth in which plants grow

**pollination:** the moving of pollen from one flower to another

**scatter:** to move or spread out

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What does a seed need to grow into a plant?
2. What happens when a plant grows flowers?
3. Can you name something that comes from a plant?

### Let's Extend

Plant a seed in a cup or pot and decorate the container with plant-themed drawings. Write or draw what you think your plant will look like when it grows. Create a poster showing the parts of a plant and label them. Observe your plant each day and write down how it changes over time.



# Storms by Miriam Goin

## Home Connection



Hold onto your hats as we dive into *Storms* by Miriam Goin! This nonfiction book takes kids on a whirlwind journey through the science of storms, from lightning and thunder to hurricanes and tornadoes. It's a thrilling way to learn about weather and safety. Ask your child which type of storm they find most fascinating and how we can stay safe during bad weather.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**weather:** what it is like outside in a place at one time

**crystal:** a shape that is the same on many sides

**electricity:** energy that can make heat and light

**funnel:** a cone shape that is wider at the top

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What happens when a storm comes?
2. What kind of clouds do you see in a storm?
3. How can you stay safe during a storm?

### Let's Extend

Draw a stormy sky with lightning, clouds, and rain using crayons or paint. Create a "storm in a jar" by mixing water, shaving cream, and blue food coloring. Write about what you would do during a big storm and how to stay safe. Learn a fun fact about lightning or thunder and share it with your family.

# Turtles by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



Slow and steady wins the race in *Turtles* by Laura Marsh! This engaging nonfiction book introduces kids to the diverse world of turtles, from sea turtles to freshwater species. Children will learn about turtle habitats, their diets, and their unique shells. Ask your child what they think makes turtles so special and how we can help protect these amazing creatures!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**webbed:** stretchy skin between the toes

**predator:** an animal that hunts and eats other animals

**protect:** to keep safe

**egg tooth:** a sharp point on a baby turtle's beak

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Where do turtles live?
2. What do turtles eat?
3. How does a turtle's shell help it?

### Let's Extend

Make a turtle shell by decorating a paper bowl or creating one with cardboard. Write a few sentences about turtle habitats and how they protect themselves. Draw or create a diorama of a pond where turtles live. Imagine being a turtle for a day and write about your journey.

# Snakes by Melissa Stewart

## Home Connection



This week, we're slithering into the scaly world of *Snakes* by Melissa Stewart! Packed with amazing photos and fascinating facts, this nonfiction book helps kids discover the importance of snakes in our ecosystems. Children will learn about different snake species, their habitats, and how they survive. Ask your child which snake fact surprised them the most and why snakes are important to nature.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**hibernate:** when an animal spends the winter sleeping or resting

**molt:** to lose a covering and replace it with a new one

**scutes:** wide scales on the belly of a snake

**prey:** an animal that is eaten by another animal

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do snakes eat?
2. How do snakes move without legs?
3. Where do snakes live?

### Let's Extend

Use paper or cardboard to create a coiled snake, then decorate it with colorful patterns. Write a few facts about snakes and what makes them unique. Draw a snake in its natural habitat, like the jungle or desert. For fun, try moving like a snake by slithering around the room!

# Dinosaurs by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

## Home Connection



Roar into the past with *Dinosaurs* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld! This exciting nonfiction book brings the world of dinosaurs to life with vivid illustrations and engaging facts. Kids will learn about different species, fossils, and what might have led to their extinction. Ask your child which dinosaur they found the most fascinating and why.

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**museum:** building where you can see rare things

**fossil:** part of a living thing that has been saved in stone

**paleontologist:** a scientist who finds and studies fossils

**extinct:** no longer living

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What did dinosaurs eat?
2. Where do dinosaurs live?
3. How do we know about dinosaurs today?

## Let's Extend

Draw or sculpt your favorite dinosaur using paper or clay. Write about where it lived and what it ate. Create a "dinosaur footprint" using a paper cutout or by painting your own hand and imagining it as a dino track. Pretend to dig for fossils by hiding small items in sand or dirt and discovering them with a brush.

# Ponies by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



This week, we're galloping into the world of *Ponies* by Laura Marsh. This nonfiction book introduces children to these gentle and beautiful animals, teaching them about pony breeds, care, and behavior. It's a great way to explore themes of responsibility and kindness to animals. Ask your child what they learned about ponies and which breed they liked the best.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**foal:** young pony

**breed:** group of animals that have similar features and look alike

**herd:** large group of animals that live together

**shelter:** safe place that gives protection from bad weather

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do ponies eat?
2. Where do ponies live?
3. How are ponies different from horses?

### Let's Extend

Design your own pony using paper or toys, adding unique features like colorful manes or saddles. Write a story about an adventure your pony has, such as running through a meadow or meeting new friends. Draw a picture of a barn or stable where your pony might live.

# Tigers by Laura Marsh

## Home Connection



Get ready for a wild adventure with *Tigers* by Laura Marsh! This nonfiction book showcases the strength and beauty of tigers, exploring their habitats, hunting techniques, and the challenges they face in the wild. Kids will learn about conservation efforts and why tigers are so important to our planet. Ask your child what they think we can do to help protect tigers and their homes.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**camouflage:** when an animal's natural color helps it blend in

**carnivore:** mammal that eats meat

**territory:** a region that is marked and defended by an animal

**endangered:** the risk of dying out or going extinct

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What do tigers eat?
2. Where do tigers live?
3. How do tigers stay hidden?

### Let's Extend

Draw a tiger in a jungle setting, including trees, bushes, and other animals. Write a short story about how tigers hunt and survive in the wild. Make a tiger mask using paper plates and act out being a tiger on the prowl.

# Dolphins by Melissa Stewart

## Home Connection



Dive into the playful world of *Dolphins* by Melissa Stewart! This engaging nonfiction book is filled with fun facts about these intelligent and social marine mammals. Children will learn about dolphin communication, behaviors, and their underwater lives. Ask your child what they found most interesting about dolphins and why these creatures are so special.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**mammal:** warm-blooded animal that drinks its mother's milk

**oxygen:** invisible gas in air and water that helps animals get energy

**calf:** a young dolphin

**equator:** imaginary line halfway between the North and South Poles

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Where do dolphins live?
2. How do dolphins breathe?
3. What do dolphins eat?

### Let's Extend

Draw or create a dolphin using paper or clay, and color it with shades of blue and gray. Write a few sentences about how dolphins communicate and play. Imagine swimming with dolphins and write about your experience. Learn a fun fact about dolphins and share it with your family.



# Veterans Day by Elaine Landau

## Home Connection



This week, we're honoring our heroes with *Veterans Day* by Elaine Landau. This nonfiction book helps kids understand the significance of Veterans Day and the sacrifices made by those who serve in the military. It's a heartfelt way to discuss gratitude, courage, and service. Ask your child why they think it's important to honor veterans and how they can show appreciation.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**veteran:** a person who has served in the Armed Forces

**holiday:** a day of celebration

**speech:** when someone talks in front of a group of people

**military:** group of women and men serving their country

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Who do we honor on Veterans Day?
2. Why is it important to remember veterans?
3. How can we celebrate Veterans Day?

### Let's Extend

Make a thank-you card or letter to give to a veteran or someone in your community who serves. Write a short paragraph about why you appreciate their service. Draw a patriotic picture, like a flag or an eagle, to honor veterans.

# The Night Before Thanksgiving by Natasha Wing

## Home Connection



Thanksgiving fun begins with *The Night Before Thanksgiving* by Natasha Wing! This delightful rhyming story follows a family as they prepare for the big day, complete with turkey, parades, and family traditions. It's a great way to talk about gratitude and holiday traditions. Ask your child what they love most about Thanksgiving and how they can show thanks this year.

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**leapt:** to spring or jump in the air

**patience:** the ability to stay calm during a delay

**nestled:** to place or press in a snug or loving way

**feast:** large and elaborate meal

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What were the kids doing to get ready for Thanksgiving?
2. What did the family eat at Thanksgiving dinner?
3. How did the family feel at the end of the story?

## Let's Extend

Draw a picture of your ideal Thanksgiving meal and label the foods. Write a short story about what you're thankful for. Pretend you're hosting a Thanksgiving dinner and draw a seating chart with family and friends.

# The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

## Home Connection



All aboard! This week, we're reading the magical holiday classic *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. This enchanting story of a boy's journey to the North Pole reminds us of the power of belief and the magic of the holiday season. Ask your child what they would ask Santa for if they rode the Polar Express!

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**steam:** the hot, white mist or cloud that comes out of old trains

**conductor:** the person on a train that collects the money

**wilderness:** a region with trees and wild animals but no people

**peak:** the top part of a mountain.

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Where did the boy go on the Polar Express?
2. What special gift did the boy get from Santa?
3. Why couldn't the boy hear the bell when he got older?

### Let's Extend

Create a train out of recycled materials like boxes or paper rolls and decorate it. Write about what you would wish for if you were given a special bell. Draw a snowy landscape with the train traveling through it and imagine where it's headed.

# Groundhog Day by Anne Marie Pace

## Home Connection



Will the groundhog see his shadow? *Groundhog Day* by Anne Marie Pace is a charming tale about friendship and working together as a group of animals prepare for Groundhog Day. This week, we're learning about cooperation, seasons, and problem-solving. Ask your child what they think makes Groundhog Day special and how the animals in the story helped each other.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**grand:** large or special in a way that makes it feel very important

**chattering:** when people talk a lot and quickly

**quills:** sharp spines that cover a porcupine's body

**bickered:** argued about something, usually that is unimportant

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. Why were the animals worried about Groundhog Day?
2. What did they do to make sure the groundhog didn't miss their party?
3. How did the story end?

### Let's Extend

Make a groundhog puppet using a brown paper bag and decorate it. Write about what you think the groundhog might predict this year. Draw a picture of the groundhog's burrow and add details like tunnels or rooms.

# The Day It Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond

## Home Connection



Love is in the air with *The Day It Rained Hearts*! This sweet story follows Cornelia Augusta as she catches hearts falling from the sky and turns them into special valentines for her friends. This week, we're exploring themes of thoughtfulness, creativity, and friendship. Ask your child who they would make a valentine for and why.

## Let's Explore Vocabulary

**strung:** hang things together by threading them onto a string

**half:** one of two equal parts of something

**caught:** grab or hold something that is moving

**pattern:** a design or arrangement that repeats in a specific way

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



## Let's Comprehend

1. What did Cornelia do with the hearts she collected?
2. How did Cornelia make her valentines special for each friend?
3. Why is it important to think about what others might like?

## Let's Extend

Cut out paper hearts and write kind messages on them to give to family or friends. Draw a scene of hearts falling from the sky and add your own imaginative twist, like rainbow hearts, or glittery ones. Write about what you would do if it started raining hearts.

# Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato by Tomie dePaola

## Home Connection



Get ready for some Irish folktale fun with *Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato*! This humorous story introduces kids to Jamie, a man in Ireland, and his adventure with an enormous potato. Children will learn about gratitude, consequences, and the value of hard work. Ask your child what they would do if they found a potato as big as a house.

### Let's Explore Vocabulary

**crept:** to move slowly

**ponder:** to think about something deeply and carefully

**wail:** to make a loud, long cry

**plenty:** a large amount of something

Ask your child to show the matching action for each vocabulary word.



### Let's Comprehend

1. What happened when the potato grew too big?
2. How did the village solve the problem of the giant potato?
3. What lesson did Jamie learn by the end of the story?

### Let's Extend

Draw or paint a giant potato and decorate it with fun designs. Write a story about what Jamie and the town did with the potato after the story ends. If possible, use a real potato to create potato stamps by cutting shapes and stamping them on paper.



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