

# What a Character!

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about story characters and what makes them unique, with a focus on the realistic fiction genre. We will read texts about interesting characters who are true to themselves when faced with a challenge. Children will also write a personal narrative that tells how a story character inspired an idea that helped them solve a problem.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is realistic fiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Tell about characters who are unique, just like your child.
- Reflect problems or concerns that your child may recognize or need to confront.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *individuality*, *unique*, *feature*, and *personality* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What is one way you are **unique**? Describe a **feature** that you look for in a friend.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *mis-*, *un-*, and *non-* and the suffixes *-ful* and *-less* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Use Your Words

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about how people use words to express themselves, with a focus on the poetry genre and letters. We will read texts in which people share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Children will also write a persuasive letter about adding a newly “invented” word to the dictionary.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child’s knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is poetry and letters. Discuss with your child the characteristics of these genres.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child’s curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Use language in interesting and unique ways.
- Share feelings and ideas.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *express*, *convey*, *chronicle*, and *creative* in conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What word can you use to **convey** how you feel? Describe a **creative** game you like.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *re-*, *pre-*, and *dis-* and the suffixes *-y* and *-ly* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Let Freedom Ring!

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about the documents and symbols of the United States, with a focus on the nonfiction genre. We will read texts and view videos about why certain things came to represent the values and ideals of our country. Children will also write an informative article for a display about U.S. places, documents, and symbols.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Provide interesting facts and details.
- Have unique formats and graphic features.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *loyal*, *sovereignty*, *democracy*, and *civic* in daily conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What does a **loyal** friend do? How can we show a **civic** pride?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *dis-* and *im-* and the suffixes *-y*, *-less*, *-er*, and *-est* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Stories on Stage

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about plays, with a focus on the drama genre. We will read texts and view videos about the features of classic and contemporary plays. Children will also write a story that could be performed as a play.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is drama. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Include interesting characters, settings, and conflicts.
- Offer opportunities to perform one or more scenes.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *audition*, *rehearse*, *ability*, and *actor* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: When is it good to **rehearse**? What is your best **ability**?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *in-* and *im-*, the suffixes *-er/-or*, and the Latin roots *aud* and *vis* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about the concept of teamwork, with a focus on the realistic fiction genre.

We will read texts and view videos about how sports can bring people together to work as a team. Children will also write an editorial about the value of sports for an imaginary school newspaper.

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### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is realistic fiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Reflect real-life problems and situations.
- Feature true-to-life characters who use teamwork to solve a problem.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *collaboration*, *symbiosis*, *determination*, and *unity* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What shows you have **determination**? When is **unity** important?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the suffixes *-er/-or*, *-er/-est*, and *-ment* and the roots *bio* and *vid* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Animal Behaviors

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about animal behavior, with a focus on the nonfiction genre. We will read texts about the behaviors and characteristics that animals use to survive. Children will also write a science article for an imaginary magazine.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Provide interesting facts and details about animal behavior.
- Have unique formats and visuals that take readers into an animal's world.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *hatch*, *universal*, *span*, and *growth* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What is the **span** of time you need to...? Give an example of **growth**.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *uni-*, *bi-*, *tri-*, and *un-*, and the suffix *-ly* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Make a Difference

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about people who make their communities better and stronger, with a focus on the narrative nonfiction genre. We will read texts about individuals and groups that make a difference in their local or global communities. Children will also write a news report for an imaginary school newspaper.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is narrative nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Tell the story of a real person who has made a difference in his or her community.
- Describe a clear sequence of events that explain the person's contribution.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *outreach*, *fellowship*, *communal*, and *resident* in conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: Name the places where you are a **resident**. Describe a **communal** event.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for compound words and words with the suffixes *-ion*, *-ness*, and *-able* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# Imagine! Invent!

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about inventors and inventions, with a focus on the nonfiction genre.

We will read texts about what it takes to make a successful invention. Children will also write an opinion essay about an inventor's key qualities.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Provide interesting facts and details about inventors and inventions.
- Reveal the true successes—and failures—behind an invention.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *invention*, *brilliant*, *productive*, and *original* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: When are you most **productive**, and why? Describe a **brilliant** idea.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the roots *graph*, *vis*, and *mem*, the suffix *-logy* and the prefix *ex-* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.



# From Farm to Table

## HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about food sources, with a focus on the informational text genre. We will read texts and view videos about how foods reach our tables. Children will also write an informative article about how to plant and grow something.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is informational text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Provide interesting facts and details about where different types of food come from.
- Have visuals and graphic features that support and extend ideas presented in the text.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *agriculture*, *reap*, *nutrition*, and *tilling* in everyday conversations. Use prompts like these: How does good **nutrition** help you? What can we **reap** from a garden?

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *in-*, *re-*, the suffixes *-ful*, *-ness*, *-able*, and *-ion*, and the root *mem* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

# HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about traditional stories, with a focus on tales. We will read texts about how people of different cultures share stories from one generation to the next. Children will also write a story of their own to share with others.

## BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is traditional tales. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child's curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Share stories from a variety of cultures.
- Teach lessons that are worth passing on to others.

### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *myth*, *folklore*, *recount*, and *inherit* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What is your favorite **myth**, and why? **Recount** what happened in school today.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the prefixes *re-*, *im-*, *in-*, the suffixes *-y*, *-ment*, and the root *graph* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.