

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Comparing Points of View.”

I hope you’ve enjoyed our first three units and are ready for “Comparing Points of View.” In this unit, we’ll be reading plays, humor, a folktale as well as a diary entry from a fictional character. To compare points of view, we’ll study familiar stories that have been given fresh twists. For example, we’ll read an entry in Cinderella’s diary and then a play that dramatizes how her stepmother and stepsisters feel about her. Likewise we’ll read a classic story about a well-known trickster character, Rabbit, then a sequel to the story in play format in which Rabbit goes on trial for his deeds.

By looking at differing points of view, your child should gain a better understanding of story elements and literature. It’s my hope, as well, that our students will also gain insights into their own lives. And since so many of our reading selections are silly and humorous, I think we’ll have a lot of fun, too.

I look forward to working together as partners this year. Should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Comparing Points of View

In this unit, we read a variety of genres and think in depth about the question, “What makes people view the same experience differently?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about point of view and to build on the skills and concepts your child has learned in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

On the Other Hand . . .

As your child has learned in this unit, stories change dramatically, depending on who’s telling them. So the next time your child is talking about something that happened at school or with friends, ask him if he thinks there’s another point of view. How would a friend—or teacher—relate the event? Encourage your child to ask you the same questions when you’re sharing a story, too.

Vocabulary Connection

What a Character!

In this unit, students met some colorful characters and learned many new vocabulary words that described their traits and behaviors, including several adjectives: **furious**, **pesky**, and **weary**. These words can be substituted for more common words such as, respectively, **mad**, **annoying**, and **tired**. Try to use these colorful adjectives in everyday conversation to describe your traits or behaviors.

Comprehension Connection

Read Between the Lines!

One of the skills we’re working on this year is making inferences or using evidence from a text to draw a conclusion. Here’s an activity to help your child practice this skill. As you’re reading a story or watching a movie or TV show together, stop and talk about what a character is thinking or feeling. Look for ways the author or filmmaker has hinted at those character traits without telling us directly.

Word Study Connections

Vowel Team Flashcards

Many words in our everyday speech and writing have vowel teams, such as “oa”; “ea” “oi” and “ou” among others. To help your child become more adept at reading words with vowel teams get 15 index cards and write each word below from the unit on each. Practice reading and spelling each word and writing each in a sentence.

loaded	seat	road	shouldn’t	oily
dough	hours	good	employee	eight
moolah	heirloom	each	tie	tomatoes