

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Recognizing Author’s Point of View.”

We are kicking off our fourth unit in the Benchmark Advance program. As with the previous units, I am providing suggested activities you and your child can do together at home to build on the work we’re doing in class.

In this unit, we will read and compare the different perspectives in selections to analyze point of view. Students will read selections in a variety of genres, including poetry, journal entries, historical fiction, and biography, and humor.

This unit will spark some lively discussion at home as we examine how understanding someone else’s perspective can help us to evaluate and understand the world.

As always, should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Recognizing Author's Point of View

In this unit, we read and compare stories to understand the points of view of the authors. We will do this by thinking deeply about the question “How can other perspectives help us evaluate the world?” Here are some activities you can do at home to continue the conversation we started at school about understanding point of view.

Topic Connection

Identify a Point of View

Help your child identify points of view by finding editorials in your local newspaper, in a print or an online edition. Find two or three editorials about local, national, or world issues your child is likely to understand. Have him or her read the editorials and then summarize the author's point of view. Discuss what the editorial helped you both learn about the issue and about the world as a whole.

Vocabulary Connection

Super Synonyms

In school, your child is learning about words that can help him or her evaluate point of view. Help your child to learn these words. Make a two-column chart for your child and list five of the following ten words on the left side of the page: **confront, implement, justice, melodious, optimism, perspective, privilege, reassuring, solitude, and unrelenting**. Then have your child list at least one synonym for each word on the right side of the page. Check the list and offer additional synonyms wherever possible.

Comprehension Connection

Here's How I See It

In this unit, we are exploring how an author's point of view helps the audience understand the story better. Work with your child to think of an experience you shared together, such as a vacation, a snow day, a birthday, or a milestone in your child's life. Each of you should brainstorm separate lists to describe what the experience made you think or feel. Then compare your lists to see the difference in your perspectives. Discuss how a child's perspective and a parent's perspective of the same event can be so different.

Word Study Connections

A Little Perspective

For your child's exploration into point of view, ask him or her to focus on the word *perspective*. Present your child with an opinion or particular perspective about a topic he or she may be familiar with. You may choose to offer your opinion about a sports team or your feeling about a particular television show you watch as a family. Then ask your child, “What's your *perspective* on this?” Allow your child to present his or her point of view on the topic.