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## School to Home Communication

The research is clear that family involvement is strongly linked to student success. Support for student learning at home improves student achievement in school. Educators should not underestimate the significance of this connection.

The activities in this book create an opportunity to create or improve this school-to-home link. The activities span a week at a time and can be sent home as a week-long homework packet each Monday. Simply clip together the strip of fun activities from the front of the book with the pages for Days I to 4 for the correct week.

Most of the activities can be completed independently, but many encourage feedback or interaction with a family member. The activities are simple and fun, aiming to create a brief pocket of learning that is enjoyable to all.

In order to make the school-to-home program work for students and their families, we encourage you to reach out to them with an introductory letter. Explain the program and its intent and ask them to partner with you in their children's educational process. Describe the role you expect them to play. Encourage them to offer suggestions or feedback along the way.

A sample letter is included below. Use it as is or create your own letter to introduce this project and elicit their collaboration.

## Dear Families,

I anticipate a productive and exciting year of learning and look forward to working with you and your child. We have a lot of work to do! I hope we-teacher, student, and family-can work together as a team to achieve the goal of academic progress we all hope for this year.

I will send home a packet of homework each week on $\qquad$ There will be two items to complete each day: a single task on a strip plus a full page of focused practice. Each page or strip is labeled Day I (for Monday), Day 2, Day 3, or Day 4. There is no homework on Friday.

Please make sure that your student brings back the completed work
$\qquad$ . It is important
that these are brought in on time as we may work on some of the lessons as a class.

If you have any questions about this program or would like to talk to me about it, please feel free to call or email me. Thank you for joining me in making this the best year ever for your student!

Sincerely,
$\qquad$
L_L_

|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{v} \\ & \mathbf{n} \\ & \underline{v} \\ & \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{3} \end{aligned}$ | Watch the news. Pick a topic which interests you and write your opinion about it. | Compare and contrast the settings in a story and a poem you've read recently. | Write a real or imagined narrative about your family. Be sure to use descriptive details and a clear sequence of events. | Write boring words such as good or happy on the fronts of index cards. On the back of each card, write more interesting synonyms for each word. Use a thesaurus as needed. |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \infty \\ & 0 \\ & \underline{v} \\ & \underline{0} \\ & 0 \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}\right.$ | Read an unfamiliar story. Stop at a few points to make predictions about what might happen next. Were your predictions correct? | Conduct research about butterflies. <br> Create a map showing the migration path of the butterfly of your choice. | Which do you like more, cats or dogs? Write a short opinion essay in which you respond to this question. | Think about your favorite book. How does the story build from the first chapter until the end? Illustrate the climax of the book. |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| O | Write six prefixes on separate index cards. Lay them face down. As you flip over each card, write at least three words with that prefix. | Practice voicing your opinion on a topic that is important to you. Give reasons why your opinion should be heard. Then, give your speech to friends and family members. | Think about two mysteries you have read. Compare and contrast the themes in the stories. How are the stories similar? How are they different? | Think of a book you have read this year. Write a different ending to it. Share your ending with someone who has read the same book. What is their opinion of your ending? |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { 오 } \\ & \text { v } \\ & \mathbf{y} \\ & \mathbf{0} \\ & \mathbf{0} \end{aligned}\right.$ | Write a simile and a metaphor describing your favorite animal. | Write a paragraph about a favorite book you read in class this year. Describe the story's genre, its main characters, the setting, and any conflicts in the story. | Write six suffixes on separate index cards. Lay them face down. As you flip over each card, write at least three words with that suffix. | Create your own mythical creature. Write a short story about your creature. Include an illustration. |

$\qquad$

What sentence structure does this paragraph have?
Golden eagles soar across the sky. Then, they search for their prey. When they spot their food, they swoop down to catch it.
sequence
cause and effect
compare and contrast
problem and solution

During every season, she (had struck/striking) out at least half of the batters.

Use the perfect tense to complete the sentences.

Ellie (take) $\qquad$ Shawn
to the doctor on Wednesday.
Macy (watch) $\qquad$ the
episode before.

| Write two antonyms <br> and two synonyms <br> for the word <br> colossal. <br>  <br>  |
| :--- |

Write a sentence using personification.

How are the characters, settings, and events the same? How are they different?

I want my cut to $\qquad$ so I can go swimming in the lake on Friday.

## reasonable <br> -reasonable

〇reazonable

heel


Snow White Cinderella


Her eyes twinkled like the stars in the sky. metaphor simile personification
The moon whispered to the night. metaphor
simile
personification


## Answer Key

## Week 16, Day 2 (page 78)

A. At the end of fourth grade, we read the poem called "Jabberwocky." B. across: verbs, down: nouns; C. planning, dancing, arguing, humming; D. Answers will vary. E. She and I took the last bus there was, and we made it just in time. F. underline: kilo-, circle: meter. G. subject, August; H. great, I, played, need, am planning, has always, real; I. natural skill

## Week I6, Day 3 (page 79)

A. fear or worry, bird or insect; B. This room has a lot of toys in it because the children use it as a play room. C. underline one: Like atoms dancing in the beam, Like day-flies skimming o'er the stream. They compare living life to atoms that dance and to flies that skim. The poet comes from a time when they spoke in a more formal style. The poem is probably really old. D. Going to the pool after lunch. Answers will vary. E. across: predict, down: subtract; F. ordinary; G. entirely; H. either, or; I. Riverboats were famous on the Mississippi River during the Civil War era.

## Week I6, Day 4 (page 80)

A. slept, read, seen, studied, chased; B. underline: sub-, circle: tract, buying a candy bar; C. After the recital, Tara, the lead dancer, got a standing ovation.
D. apologized; E. C, S, S, C; F. crater; G. Answers will vary. H. circle: clam

## Week I7, Day I (page 8I)

A. simile; B. circle: in, under, underline: basement, doormat; C. centipede; D. Answers will vary. E. conquer; F. paws; G. The rain forest is one of Earth's greatest resources. Answers will vary. H. to make or manufacture; I. Kate, we had a great time at the park, didn't we?

## Week I7, Day 2 (page 82)

A. Antarctica is the continent at the South Pole of the globe, isn't it? B. launch, atmosphere, oxygen, Answers will vary. C. replied, hired, fried, painted; D. get married; E. yet; F. eject, injection, object; G. social; H. through, along, underneath, above, up, at, from; I. having a broken, rocky, and uneven surface

## Week I7, Day 3 (page 83)

A. bird, chop; B. Bill was going fishing with his friends, but he needed to buy bait and tackle. C. underline: stiff to sweep or sew, the $/ \mathrm{s} /$ sound is repeated three times; an old woman, Answers will vary. She is sad that all that she knows about life will be forgotten. D. across: donut, down: hamburger; E . someone is not as harsh as he or she seems; F. eject; G. granite; H. When I was young, one of my favorite TV shows was Dilly's House.
I. exclamatory

## Week I7, Day 4 (page 84)

A. hey, Answers will vary. B. mis-, in math class; C. Juan asked Cynthia, "Have you finished your science report?" D. to go first; E. laziness, Answers will vary. F. opportunity; G. Answers will vary. H. circle: pizza

## Week I8, Day I (page 85)

A. simile; B. pack; C. walks, sang; D. Answers will vary.
E. liberty; F. under, around; G. Answers will vary.
H. -able, -ible; I. Neither, nor, either, or

## Week I8, Day 2 (page 86)

A. When they realized their mom was gone, the puppies cried, whimpered, and sighed. B. Answers will vary. C. swung, rose, kept, sat; D. struct; E. Yikes; F. through, due; G. right; H. add commas after: charts, paper, tags, markers, clay; I. tornado, hurricane, hail, cumulus, precipitation

## Week I8, Day 3 (page 87)

A. choosed/chose, stepping/stepped. B. detention; C. Answers will vary. D. Regular: birds, plates, bottles, keys, Irregular: wives, volcanoes, feet; E. an accomplishment of which one can be proud; F. clear; G. oblige; H. either, or; I. Sarah was almost late to Ms. Long's English class yesterday!

## Week I8, Day 4 (page 88)

A. I,F,F,I; B. ouch, whoa, shh; C. My sister wore a long, purple, silky dress to the high school dance. D. a thing you can see or touch; E. fid/dle, ta/ble, ma/ple, ap/ple, ea/gle, lit/tle, bub/ble; F. rhythm; G. estimate how much money she needs, negotiate a fair price, rehearsed for months; H. underline: -ology, circle: path, the science of the causes and effects of diseases

## Week 19, Day I (page 89)

A. sequence B. had struck; C. took, watched; D. Anwers will vary. E. reasonable; F. heal; G-H. Answers will vary. I. simile; personification.

## Week 19, Day 2 (page 90)

A. Fred exclaimed, "Patrick, I need to go and rehearse some of my lines, or I will never learn them in time!" B. beneath, through, around, between, Answers will vary. C. "Jack and the Beanstalk"; The Herold Times; Gone with the Wind; "Cinderella"; Sports Limited;
D-F. Answers will vary. G. population; H. Answers will vary. I. compassion, scissors

## Week 19, Day 3 (page 91)

A. king, cut; B. Answers will vary. C. I, Answers will vary. D. Adverbs: gravely, after, often, Adjectives: casual, delicate, grim; E. Anxiously awaiting their turn on the tables with the groomer. Answers will vary.
F. gigantic; G. pajamas; H. Both, and, neither, nor;
I. Before you leave for the concert, Gavin, be sure you have your wallet!

## Week 19, Day 4 (page 92)

A. top; B. Juan wrote a letter to his sister, but he hasn't mailed it yet. C. Answers will vary. D. demanded; E. random, hectic, pretzel, wisdom, common; F. marvel; G. onomatopoeia, simile, personification, hyperbole;
H. circle: doughnut

