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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 weeklong 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,

Name

Phone

Email

|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{N} \\ \underline{v} \\ \mathbf{\omega} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{3} \end{array}\right\|$ | Continue this story: Kay and Jack got off the bus and walked through the front door. "Oh, no!" Kay cried. "Not again!" | Go on a scavenger hunt around your home. How many things can you find that begin with the first letter of your first name? Write a list. | List as many words as you can think of that have the same vowel sound as scream. | Look at this list of adjectives: red, huge, flat, loud, warm, shiny. Find at least one thing in your home or neighborhood that can be described by each of these words. |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\|\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \underline{u} \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \mathbf{3} \end{array}\right\|$ | Search your home for things that have only one syllable. How many can you find? | Use books, magazines, or the Internet to learn about your favorite animal. Write one paragraph about that animal. | Write each letter of the alphabet on an index card. Shuffle the cards. Pull the first two off of the pile. Think of a word that includes those two letters. Continue until you finish the deck of cards. | Think about this idiom: "between a rock and a hard place." Draw a picture illustrating this idiom. |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\left\|\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{v} \\ \mathbf{3} \end{array}\right\|$ | Write six prefixes on separate index cards. Lay them facedown. Each time you flip over a card, write at least three words with that prefix. | Make bingo cards with different antonyms. Call out each antonym to friends or family members. Have them mark the antonyms on their cards. Play until there is a winner. | Think of your favorite character from a book or story. What are five adjectives that describe this character? | Write each vowel on an index card. Lay the cards facedown. Select two. Think of a word that uses those two letters. |


|  | Day I | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $$ | Write six suffixes on separate index cards. Lay them facedown. Each time you flip over a card, write at least three words with that suffix. | Write three adjectives to describe something in your bedroom. Write three antonyms for each word. Use a thesaurus if you need help. | Find a comic strip. Write your own dialogue to replace what the writer has written. | As quickly as you can, write down 10 words that begin with the letter $m$. Use a dictionary if you need help. |

When (can, may, must) I use the computer to do my homework?

Max wanted to play cards. Neal wanted to shoot hoops. Because they did not want to disagree, they decided to see eye to eye and go hiking instead. What does the idiom mean? $\qquad$

Find and circle three synonyms for cry.

| S | N | I | F | T | L | E |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Y | W | E | E | P | Q | U |
| A | A | D | O | S | G | E |
| X | I | C | F | O | H | V |
| B | L | U | B | B | E | R |


| Circle the <br> prepositions. <br> upon |
| :--- |
| sea |
| under |
| meadow |
| above |
| river |


| Juan was as quiet as a mouse. |
| :--- |
| How can someone be as quiet as a |
| mouse? |
|  |
| Insert the missing comma. <br> Lavon finished the book and his mother <br> returned it to the library. |

Sort the words into nouns, verbs, and adjectives. misdeed misspell misbehavior underwater underlie underneath overstep overcook

| nouns | verbs | adjectives |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |


| Circle the words that <br> can be objects of <br> prepositions. <br> sky <br> through <br> cat <br> tree <br> around <br> by |
| :--- |


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## Answer Key

## Week 9, Day 4 (page 52)

A. Answers will vary. B. Botswana, Angola, and Zambia are African countries. C. whom, will, be;
D. completely confused about something;
E. Don't judge a book by its cover. F. beak;
G. Answers will vary. H. engineer

## Week IO, Day I (page 53)

A. "What flavor will you get?" Berry asked. "Oh, I don't know," I said. "What were you thinking of getting?" "I always get coconut," Berry replied, "but it looks like they're fresh out! It's a shame." B. readers; C. o•ver•pass, o $\bullet^{\bullet v e r} \bullet$ cooked, o•ver•hang•ing; D. adjective; E.wheat; F. Ella hammered in the nail. G. Check students' answers. H. pole; I. simple sentence

## Week IO, Day 2 (page 54)

A. may; B. blubber, sob, wail, weep; C. to agree; D. upon, under, above; $E$. when someone moves about without making any noise; F. ; G. plus, fusses; H. nouns: misdeed, misbehavior; verbs: misspell, underlie, overstep, overcook; adjectives: underwater, underneath; I. sky, cat, tree

## Week IO, Day 3 (page 55)

A. waiting, be; B. creaked loudly; C. before, for example, once, first, then, finally; D. Across: ornament, job; Down: woods, demand, disturb; E. Answers will vary but may include river, star, medicine, and peas. F. chew; G. worst;
H. squawking grey goose; I. wrong, beneath, above

## Week 10, Day 4 (page 56)

A. Answers will vary. B. Circle: food fight incident; Underline: stricter cafeteria rules; C. During, of, under, was; D. to push against each something by the head; E. Something is very expensive. F. brook; G. Answers will vary. H. quote someone wrongly

## Week II, Day I (page 57)

A. Answers will vary. B. theme; C. Answers will vary. D. Check students' answers. E. trimmed; F. "Good morning, Tran," Justine said. "I hoped to see you in class today. Ms. Sanchez would like us to split up into reading groups, and I would like you to be in mine." G. Check students' answers. H. made, barely; I. won't

## Week II, Day 2 (page 58)

A. !; B. Answers will vary. C. the sun; D. spot, discern, glimpse; E. to feel out of place; F. am; G. her, us, you, it, them; H. wordy, "talk your ear off," talks too much; I. to not understand something

## Week II, Day 3 (page 59)

A. Two, to, too; B. popped, snapped; C. Answers will vary. D. Before Michigan was admitted to the United States, it had been a separate territory for about thirty years. E. under, across, against, through, around (or any appropriate prepositions; F. talk speedily; G. blend; H. gleam; I. not complete

## Week II, Day 4 (page 60)

A. thrilled, delighted; B. I was going to ask her, but she had already left. C. whose, is; D. rough feeling; E. Good things come to those that wait. F. forgive;
G. Has, having, having, have, has, have, have; H. not perfect

## Week 12, Day I (page 6I)

A. fragments: Norwegians, Swedes, and Germans also; run-ons: During the Great Famine, a number of Irish citizens came hoping for prosperity, they were not the only ones coming at the time. B. ?;
C. im $\bullet \mathrm{med} \bullet \cdot \cdot$ ate, $\mathrm{im} \bullet$ press, $\mathrm{im} \bullet$ pa $\bullet$ tient; D. -ment, -er, -or, -ness, -en; E. excited; F. must, can, May; G. wildlife, habitat, endangered, conservation, extinction; H. paws; I. come

## Week I2, Day 2 (page 62)

A. was; B. Answers will vary. C. on top of the world;
D. call out, wail, cry, roar; E. whispered;
F. will be; $G$. will, can, might; H. Answers will vary. I. too

## Week 12, Day 3 (page 63)

A. There's, theirs; B. difficult, easier; C. Answers will vary. D. over the moon; E. erupt; F. There is, I have; G. howl; H. not obey; I. waltz

## Week 12, Day 4 (page 64)

A. can; B. Thanks, guys; C. red, that; D. speaking to a knowledgeable person for advice; $E$. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. F. Answers will vary. G. gallon; H. give up

## Week I3, Day I (page 65)

A. run-ons: Three families lived in the old Bilby house, one lived on each floor. On the ground floor, the Rios family kept mostly to themselves, they spent most weekends out in the state park. fragments: In the attic, crammed in under a slanting roof, the Miller family. B. secondhand; C. not trust; D. was reading, am reading, will be reading; E. improve; F. Check students' answers. G. move: glide, hustle; speak: utter, declare, bellow, mutter; study: review, cram, inspect; H. false; I. main verb

