

Home Letter

Dear Family,

This unit begins by exploring the question “What was life on the prairie like for pioneers?” In the historical fiction selection **Sarah, Plain and Tall**, students will read about two motherless children on a prairie who hope they will gain a new mother, and their father a new wife, in the form of plain and tall Sarah, from faraway Maine. The class will also read **Wagons of the Old West**, an informational text that tells how old wagons were specially designed to help pioneers make their long westward treks.

This week’s...

Target Vocabulary: prairie, slick, fetch, clattered, sniff, rough, batted, thumped, buzzing, rustle

Phonics Skill: Base words and *-ed*, *-ing*

Vocabulary Strategy: Prefix *non-*

Comprehension Skill: Story structure—name the setting, character, and plot in a story

Comprehension Strategy: Monitor/clarify—as you read, find a way to clear up what doesn’t make sense

Writing Focus: Narrative writing—fictional narrative paragraph

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Play a game in which you and your child work together to use as many of this week’s **Target Vocabulary** words as you can in one sentence. Focus on words that describe sounds, such as **rustle**, **buzzing**, **thumped**, and **clattered**.

Long Ago and Far Away

Talk with your child about life in bygone eras. Discuss similarities and differences between life then and life now.

Hit the Road!

Ask your child to write a one-paragraph tale of a character whose desire for a better life or a change in life leads to a journey.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week’s selection.