

Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Making Decisions.”

In “Making Decisions,” we’ll be meeting a variety of characters from contemporary realistic fiction stories written by renowned children’s author Crystal Allen, as well as some familiar folktales. As we study character traits, we’ll be drawing conclusions about the lessons characters learn and the themes we can infer. For example, in “The Kid and the Wolf,” a foolish young goat thinks he’s so strong he doesn’t have to worry about predators. However, a hungry wolf comes along and threatens to eat him, and the kid learns how to outwit an enemy to save his skin. Although we’ll be talking a lot about themes and morals, and applauding decisions the characters make, we’ll also be laughing at some of the humorous characters and plot twists.

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

Making Decisions

In this unit, we meet many characters from realistic fiction stories and fables, and we think in depth about the question “What helps us solve problems?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about themes and to build on the skills your child has learned in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

What Now?

As I’m sure you know, finding a creative solution to a problem is not something that just happens in fables and folktales. The next time you or your child is presented with a problem, take time to discuss it. Ask your child: Which of your own character traits can help you solve this? What can this situation teach you?

Vocabulary Connection

From Word to Image

As we read this unit, students learned many new words, including: **attend, chugging, designate, honor, interrupted, magnificent, nudge, privilege, recital, registration, rivals,** and **strolling**. To support your child’s work knowledge, consider the following activity. Make a small booklet of 10–12 pages. On each page, write one of the vocabulary words. Brainstorm together about how to represent each word. Then draw pictures—or cut them out of magazines or print them from the Internet.

Comprehension Connection

Therefore I think . . .

An important reading skill is the ability to draw conclusions, using information from a text. To help your child with this skill, consider the following activity the next time you’re reading a story together or watching a movie or TV program. Point out different actions the main character takes. Then ask your child questions like, “What is he or she really like?” or “What if anything do you think the character has learned?”

Word Study Connections

Of Men, Mice, and Deer

In our word study instruction, students are learning to recognize nouns that have unusual or irregular plurals. Some common words are listed below. To help your child become more familiar with these nouns, pick one of the words and try to come up with a tongue twister. Feel free to make it silly! For example: Monday, a man met many men and then made meatballs.

man	mouse	tooth	child	woman
men	mice	teeth	children	women
person	sheep	deer	goose	wolf
people	sheep	deer	geese	wolves