

## **Dear Family Member,**

Welcome to our next unit of study, “Forces and Interactions.”

In “Forces and Interactions” we’ll be learning about new concepts in physical science. We’ll learn, for example, that when an object changes speed or direction, its movement is caused by various forces on Earth interacting with the object.

We’ll read about how forces have different strengths and how gravity influences and alters Earth’s surface. In addition to reading scientific informational texts, we’ll look at the topic through a more creative writing angle by reading a folktale, two fables, and three poems.

“Forces and Interactions” is an exciting, interdisciplinary unit, and I hope you’ll be able to build on the concepts introduced in school.

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

# Forces and Interactions

In this unit, we read about topics in physical science and think in depth about the question “How does understanding science help us achieve our goals?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about forces and to build on the skills and concepts your child has learned in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

## Topic Connection

### Opposites Attract

Experimenting with magnets is an easy way to study forces. By doing so, we can observe how magnetic forces “push” or “pull” against one another. For example, when there are two magnets placed closely together, they are attracted to the opposing poles. With your child, find various objects around you and brainstorm if these objects have any magnetic properties. If you have a magnet handy, see which objects have the strongest attraction and which ones have the weakest. Have your child record your findings in a science journal.

## Vocabulary Connection

### Multiple Meaning Words

For this unit, students learned many new words, including a few that have more than one meaning, depending on if the word is used as a noun or a verb. Here are a few of those words from the unit. Go over the meaning your child learned. Then, work with your child and a dictionary and find the meaning of the word when used as another part of speech (provided in parenthesis). Compare the meanings of the word.

**effect** (noun); **grooves** (verb); **mind** (noun); **peer** (noun)

## Comprehension Connection

### Compare and Contrast

The ability to compare and contrast material we’re reading is an important skill that we’re learning in school. You can practice this skill with your child when you’re reading a story together or watching a movie or show. Find two events—or characters or even whole stories—and examine them closely. How are they alike? How are they different?

## Word Study Connections

### Happy Endings

In our word study instruction, students learned about suffixes with *-ing*, *-ment*, and *-ness*. To help your child become more familiar with these words, play this word-building game. First, create an index card with each suffix. Then, write the words below, from the unit, onto index cards. Pick a card and match it with the correct suffix, then write out the new word. (Note that *amaze* works with two suffixes.)

|       |          |         |       |
|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| amaze | clever   | content | happy |
| sly   | scramble | lead    | sad   |