Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our next unit of study, "Many Characters, Many Points of View."

In life as in literature, a story can change dramatically depending on who's telling it. That's the main idea behind our fourth unit of study, "Many Characters, Many Points of View." To explore this theme, your child will be reading several folktales, plus a contemporary retelling of "Stone Soup" as well as realistic fiction and science fiction. In each case, we will be looking at the point of view. For example, in "The Blind Men and the Elephant," five blind men each examine an elephant to learn more about it. The man who touches the elephant's trunk decides it's just like a snake, whereas the man who touches its tail concludes an elephant is like a rope. As the rajah explains afterwards, each man sees only part of the elephant. To get the whole picture, they have to put the pieces together.

As we read our selections, your child will be asked to compare the points of view of different characters. We will also be studying how characters change their points of view as a story progresses. I hope you'll agree that the skills we're learning will not only help your child become a better reader but also provide him or her with valuable insights into the world around us.

Many Characters, Many Points of Views

Here are some activities designed to continue our exploration of how a story changes depending on who tells it. I hope that you'll find it enjoyable to build on the skills and concepts your child is learning in school.

Topic Connection

He Said, She Said!

In real life, too, stories change depending on who tells them. Think of how any well-known fairy tale would be different if told from another point of view! Read or tell one of those tales to your child. And then change the point of view and make up a new story together. For example, retell Cinderella's story from one of her stepsisters' points of view or Little Red Riding Hood's story from the wolf's.

Vocabulary Connection

Attracting Opposites

In our reading material, your child will be introduced to several new vocabulary words, including the words below. Talk about each word with your child. Help him or her to come up with an antonym for each one. Which words might be useful when it comes to making new friends? Which might be hurtful?

admired	**delicious**	**grand**
gorgeous	**proud**	**tidy**

Comprehension Connection

Prove It!

An important comprehension skill is being able to find specific words or pictures that can answer a question or prove a point. As you read any story with your child, stop and pose a question. For example: How do you know Cinderella's stepmother is mean? Or why didn't the villagers help the boy when the wolf appeared? Encourage your child to point to specific details from the story.

Phonics Connections

Bossy "R" Words

In our phonics and word study instruction, students are reading words controlled by *r.* In these words, the *r* gives the vowel a different sound. Sometimes we even refer to the "bossy *r*" because it directs the sound of the vowel. To practice this skill with your child, read aloud these words from the unit where the "r" controls different vowel sounds.

"o" sound	**roar**	**porch**	**more**
"e" sound	**fearless**	**cheerful**	**here**
"a" sound	**hair**	**ware**	**bear**