Dear Family Member,

Welcome to our sixth unit of study, "Tales to Live By."

In this unit, we'll be reading tales from around the world and discussing the lessons each tale teaches us. Some tales, like the fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel," might be familiar to your child, but others he or she will likely be reading for the first time. Selections include a range of folktales, including pourquoi tales ("how and why") and trickster tales. As we compare and contrast characters and stories, we'll be exploring themes of honesty, kindness, greed, and truth. Be sure to ask your child about Pedro Urdemalas, a favorite crafty character from Latin American folklore.

"Tales to Live By" is a rich and interesting unit, and I hope it will provoke many thoughtful conversations in school and at home. I hope you'll find the time to work on some of the activities on the following pages, and as always, should you have any questions about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Tales to Live By

In this unit, we read tales from around the world and we think in depth about the question "What can different cultures teach us?" Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about the tales we'll read and to build on the skills and concepts your child is learning in school. Hopefully, you'll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Telling Tales

Is there a tale from your own culture that you can either read or relate to your child? What lesson does it teach us? How is it similar to the tales your child read in class? How is it different?

Vocabulary Connection

Verb Auditions

In our reading material, your child will be introduced to several new vocabulary words including the verbs below. Active, vivid verbs such as these make stories more exciting. Go over the meaning of each word and then take turns acting them out. Pretend that you are a verb, trying out for a "part" in a story. Create your own dialogue if you like. Bonus: Create and perform a short play in which each of these verbs has an action that is part of the plot.

conceal **munch** **stroll** **stumble**

Comprehension Connection

Like, Unlike

Being able to compare and contrast is an important reading comprehension skill your child is learning this year. Together with your child, select two different people, places, holidays, or objects. Then have your child tell or draw how they are alike and different.

Phonics Connections

Choose Your Long Oo's

In our phonics instruction, students are reading words with the long "oo" sound as in "boo." They are learning that other vowel teams can also make the same sound: *ui*, *ew*, *ue*, and *ou*. Some examples from the unit are in bold, below. Challenge your child to come up with other words that use these vowel teams to make the long "oo" sound. To help you get started, there is an example for each type of vowel team in parenthesis.

food (tool); **fruit** (juice); **grew** (chew); **cruel** (glue); **soup** (group)