

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6/Home Letter 1 (at Lesson 1)

Dear Family,

Your child is beginning the *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 6 program. This year, your child will analyze literature, use reference materials, and work on study skills at nearly an adult reading level.

Researchers have found that when a family is involved in the education of an adolescent, the youth makes better progress in school. Even though your child is growing up and becoming independent, your encouragement and help will make a difference!

Several times throughout this school year, I will be sending you the *Reading Mastery Plus* Home Letters to give you timely information on topics such as

- * information your child has been learning;
- * vocabulary words to review;
- * books to read together;
- * an activity to help your child learn at home.

Even though the school term is just beginning, there are some things you can do now to help your child get started right.

- * Provide a quiet place for study. Having a regular daily homework time will help your child learn good work habits.
- * Give your child a small notebook for recording each day's homework assignment and the due dates.
- * Ask your child what the homework assignments are. When your child states that homework is finished, ask to see the completed work. Find something positive to say when offering advice. Adolescents are extremely sensitive to criticism.
- * If the homework involves studying for a test or quiz, ask your child a few questions to make sure the information has been learned.
- * If your child has a project that is due after a period of time, write the date on a calendar and check progress daily. This will prevent rushing at the last minute and will help your child set a pace that will get the job done on time.
- * If your child doesn't have a library card, go to the library together and get one. You can help your child develop important library skills by introducing him or her to the reference librarian.

If you have any questions or want more ideas about how to help your child with reading, please call me at the school. I'll be happy to talk with you.

Thank you,

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6/Home Letter 2 (after Lesson 30)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 30 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 6. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Greek Mythology The Odyssey, Persephone, Hades, Demeter, Penelope, Apollo, Sirens, Circe, Calypso, Poseidon	Map Skills north, south, east, west; plotting journeys on a map; studying maps of states and countries	Facts About the Desert juniper, sage, cactus, yucca, mesa, burro Facts About Birds hawk, blue jay, mockingbird, bluebird

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to explain the meaning of each of these words.

Vocabulary		
disaster commotion fulfill suitor illuminated cease	cherish launch skeptical quarrel courteous excursion	stalk ancestors sympathize smudge wharf pneumonia

Books to Read

We have been reading about Greek myths and about sailing ships and steamboats in the 1890s. Your child has been learning to chart the journeys of story characters on a map. Here are some books on these topics that you may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>The Greek Gods</i> by Bernard Evslyn, et al. <i>Greek Gods and Heroes</i> by Robert Graves <i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> by Avi <i>The Voyage of the Frog</i> by Gary Paulsen

Ask your librarian for more books on mythology from cultures around the world.

Activity Page

On the next page you will find an activity you can do with your child to help develop research and study skills.

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6/Home Letter 3 (after Lesson 60)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 60 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 6. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Literary Devices figurative language, similes, contradictions, exaggeration, metaphors, deductions Ask your child to give you an example of each of these types of language usage.	Facts About the Bastille and the French Revolution In 1789, the French revolted against their king and freed prisoners locked in the Bastille, a large prison in Paris. This was part of the French Revolution.	Poetry "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" by Longfellow Short Stories Short stories often have a surprise ending or unexpected 'twist' to the story line.

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to tell you a short story that uses as many of the words from the vocabulary list as possible.

Vocabulary		
excessive triumphant melancholy entice luscious agitated humiliating spurned	wretched apologize exquisite frivolous gnarled horrid vague anguish	lush inherit fascinate crimson distinguished incident maneuver diameter

Books to Read

We have been reading short stories and poetry as well as the novel *Sara Crewe*. Here are some other books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices</i> by Paul Fleischman <i>Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind</i> by Suzanne Fisher Staples <i>What If?... Amazing Stories</i> edited by Monica Hughes

Ask your librarian for more novels and collections of short stories and poetry that would be appropriate for young adult readers.

Activity Page

On the next page you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6/Home Letter 4 (after Lesson 95)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed 95 lessons of *Reading Mastery Plus*, Level 6. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Facts About the Civil War War broke out between the North and South in 1861. One issue was slavery.</p> <p>Biography of a Former Slave Ask your child about the true story of former slave, Harriet Tubman.</p>	<p>Facts About the Solar System The closer the planet is to the sun, the faster it will orbit. It takes Pluto almost 250 years to orbit the sun.</p> <p>Following Directions filling out forms, resumes</p>	<p>Poetry "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Thayer "Miracles" by Walt Whitman</p> <p>Science Fiction "The Star" by H.G.Wells</p> <p>Reading a Play "All in Favor" by Morton K. Schwartz</p>

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
<p>bungle conscience scholar wince unanimous sulkily</p>	<p>hoisted hurtle poised summit vengeance dumbfounded</p>	<p>observatory writhe astronomer plantation remnants overwhelm</p>

Books to Read

We have been reading many different kinds of books, such as biographies, poetry, science fiction, and a play. Here are some samples of books that you and your child may enjoy reading together. Ask the librarian to help you find these titles or others like them.

Library Shelf
<p><i>I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by African Americans</i> edited by Arnold Adoff</p> <p><i>Multicultural Plays for Children, Volume 2</i> by Pamela Gerke</p> <p><i>The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet</i> by Eleanor Cameron</p> <p><i>Extraordinary Young People</i> by Marlene Targ Brill</p>

Activity Page

On the next page you will find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6/ Home Letter 5 (after Lesson 120)

Dear Family,

Your child has completed *Reading Mastery Plus, Level 6*. We have worked on many reading, writing, language, research, and study skills this year. Your child is proud of the accomplishments made in these areas.

Even though the school term is ending, there are many things you can do to help your child continue to develop as a young adult reader.

- * Encourage your child to spend time reading silently every day. If your child chooses books on subjects that are interesting, reading time will be a fun activity. Show your child you think reading is important by reading yourself.
- * Magazine quizzes, kit assembly instructions, and recipes all count as reading! You can work on crossword puzzles or word scrambles together.
- * Keep paper, pens, and pencils available for writing. Ask your child to write something each day. Your child can write in a journal, on labels in a family photo-album or scrapbook, memoirs of family events or holidays, letters to friends and relatives, notes to you, lists of jobs to be done, items to be purchased at the grocery store, or to a pen pal.

Books to Read

Here are some books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>The Endless Steppe</i> by Esther Hautzig <i>The Sword in the Stone</i> by T.H. White <i>Little Sister</i> by Kara Dalkey <i>The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis <i>The Green Book</i> by Jill Paton Walsh <i>The Star Fisher</i> by Laurence Yep

Ask your librarian for more books about subjects in which your child has a special interest. There are lots of popular authors who write just for your child's age group. Ask your librarian for a list of young adult authors or books that are requested the most by youth. Your child can also find realistic stories about adolescents as well as biographies of famous people and athletes. The nonfiction section of the library has many books on sports, fashion, and hobbies that may also interest your child.

Activity Page

On the next page you will find an activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!