

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 1 (at Lesson 10)

Dear Family,

We're off to another exciting school year! Your child will be learning many new vocabulary words and comprehension skills in *Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3*. Your child has already started to learn some very important reading skills necessary to become a fluent reader.

Research tells us that when the family becomes involved in the child's learning, the child makes better progress. Helping your child with schoolwork will make a real difference!

At the end of every tenth lesson, I will be sending you the *Reading Mastery Signature Edition* home letters to give you helpful and timely information on topics you can help work on at home. They include:

- Information your child has been learning.
- Important vocabulary words to review.
- A fun activity to help your child learn at home.

Even though the school year is just beginning, there are some things you can do from home now to help your child get started right:

- Visit your local library to borrow books as often as possible.
- Make reading a family event. Silently read books of choice as a family, read to your child, and/or ask your child to read to you as often as possible.
- Provide a quiet place at home to read or study.
- Ask to see your child's homework and set up expectations for completion. Give as much help as needed.
- Praise your child for good reading and study habits.

Your involvement will be an exciting and helpful addition to your child's learning process! If you have any questions or want more ideas about how to help your child with reading, please contact me at the school. I'd be happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 2 (after Lesson 20)

Your child has completed the first 20 lessons of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3*. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>The Tilt of the Earth The Earth's poles are tilted. This tilt is the same during all seasons. Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens to the North and South Poles during the summer and winter? <i>(Answer: In summer, the Pole tilts towards the Sun and it's always daylight. In winter, the Pole tilts away from the sun and it's always dark.)</i> 	<p>Facts About Eskimos Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do Eskimos live? <i>(Answer: Near the North Pole in Canada and Alaska.)</i> • Is it cold there? <i>(Yes)</i> • What do Eskimos need to wear? <i>(Parkas, warm clothes made of animal skins.)</i> • What types of animals would Eskimos see? <i>(walruses, killer whales, seals, polar bears, wolves)</i> • How do Eskimos carry things across the snow? <i>(On a sled pulled by dogs.)</i> 	<p>Facts About Killer Whales Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are killer whales the largest whale? <i>(No, they are much smaller than most other whales.)</i> • Are killer whales cold-blooded or warm-blooded? <i>(warm-blooded)</i> • Are killer whales smart? <i>(Yes, some scientists think they are smarter than dogs.)</i> • How do killer whales hunt? <i>(In packs)</i>

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

Vocabulary	
sloshing grinding glanced current kneeled	hitch surface repeated ridge swarming

Lately, we've been reading about the people and animals of Alaska and the North Pole. In addition, we've read facts about Florida, Alaska, and Canada. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 3 (after Lesson 30)

Your child has completed Lessons 21-30 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Facts About Clouds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clouds are made up of tiny drops of water.• Your child can tell you many other interesting facts about clouds. Here's another example: Some kinds of clouds may bring bad weather. <p>Ask to hear more about clouds!</p>	Piles and Layers of the Earth <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's the rule about piles? (<i>Answer: Things closer to the bottom of the pile went into the pile earlier.</i>) Have your child demonstrate the rule by using common household items.• How old are some of the layers you have read about?• The Mesozoic layer has what kind of animal skeletons in it? (<i>Dinosaur</i>)	Facts About Whirlpools <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are whirlpools made of? (<i>Answer: moving water</i>)• What is a whirlpool shaped like? Discuss the shape in detail. (<i>a funnel; wide on top and narrow on the bottom</i>)• Something caught in a whirlpool does what? (<i>It goes around and around</i>)• Would it move up or down as it spins? (<i>Answer: down</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
gulped	shallow
sight	stumbled
armor	faint
Bermuda Triangle	leathery
engineer	clearing

Lately, we've been reading several interesting fiction stories and nonfiction passages. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 4 (after Lesson 40)

Your child has completed Lessons 31-40 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Volcanoes and Earthquakes</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are volcanoes made of? (<i>Answer: hot, melted rock</i>) • How do volcanoes "grow"? Describe how it happens. (<i>Melted rock piles up on cooled, hardened rock as it pours out of the surface of the earth.</i>) • The volcano keeps growing into the shape of a _____. (<i>cone</i>) • Sometimes there are _____ around volcanoes. (<i>earthquakes</i>) 	<p>Inventing</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's an invention? (<i>An object made for the first time.</i>) • The <i>first</i> telephone was an _____. (<i>invention</i>) • Most of the items we use every day were invented after what year? (<i>1800</i>) • Name some things you wouldn't have if you lived before 1800. 	<p>Review</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do Eskimos live? (<i>Answer: Alaska, Canada and North Pole.</i>) • How do killer whales hunt? (<i>In packs.</i>) • What's the rule about piles? (<i>Answer: Things closer to the bottom of the pile went into the pile earlier.</i>) • What are whirlpools made of? (<i>Spinning water.</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
remains	darted
swift	sharp-minded
quake	suggest
approach	chuckled
divided	checker

Lately, we've been reading a number of engaging fictional stories. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 5 (after Lesson 50)

Your child has completed Lessons 41-50 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>A Plan for Inventing Thinking like an inventor is difficult. The main character (Leonard) in our stories noticed every time he had a problem, he had a <u>need</u> for something that would solve that problem.</p> <p>Ask your child to tell you more about Leonard, his idea for The Electric Eye, and other inventions.</p>	<p>An Invention Fair Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does an inventor need a patent? What does a patent do? (<i>Yes. A patent protects an invention from being stolen.</i>) • What are businesses that make things called? (<i>manufacturers</i>) • How much was first prize at the World's Largest Invention Fair? (<i>\$20,000</i>) Did Leonard win first prize? (<i>Answer: No, he won second prize.</i>) 	<p>Vocabulary Sentence Review Ask your child to repeat the following vocabulary sentences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He responded to her clever solution. • The patent attorney wrote an agreement. • The applause interrupted his speech. • She selected a comfortable seat.

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

Vocabulary	
device	purchase
mentioned	manufacturer
expect	disappointed
tone	hesitated
whether	products

Lately, we've been reading mostly fictional stories. In the process, we've learned many things about inventors and inventions. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 6 (after Lesson 60)

Your child has completed Lessons 51-60 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Facts About Japan Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Japan north, south, east, or west of the United States? (<i>West</i>) • Japan is a small island. Which ocean do Japan and the United States share? (<i>Answer: the Pacific</i>) • Which is smaller: Japan or Alaska? (<i>Japan</i>) 	<p>Facts About the Solar System Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The solar system is made up of the sun and ____ planets. (<i>Answer: 9</i>) • Is the sun in the middle or on the outside of the solar system? (<i>middle</i>) • Is Earth the closest planet to the sun? (<i>Answer: No, Mercury is.</i>) Can you name all 9 planets? (<i>Answer: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto</i>) 	<p>Gravity Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is gravity? (<i>Answer: the force that pulls things back to the planet</i>) • What would happen if the Earth didn't have gravity? (<i>Things would float; things would fly away.</i>) • Is gravity the same on all planets? (<i>No</i>) • Would you weigh <i>more</i> or <i>less</i> on a planet with <i>stronger</i> gravity than Earth? (<i>More</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
solar system	tremble
concluded	survive
section	appeared
Tokyo	surround
pressure	incredible

We've been reading a lot about the solar system and gravity, including many exciting stories about space travel. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 7 (after Lesson 70)

Your child has completed Lessons 61-70 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
More About Planets and Gravity Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which planets have <u>stronger</u> gravity: big planets or small planets? (<i>Big planets</i>)• Would you weigh more, less, or the same on a smaller planet than Earth? (<i>Less</i>)• Which planet is bigger: Earth or Saturn? (<i>Saturn</i>)• How many moons does Earth have? (<i>One</i>)	Training Animals Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When training animals, what's the first thing you do? (<i>Tell the animal what to do</i>)• What do you do each time the animal does the trick? (<i>Give it a reward</i>)• Can the animal get the reward if it doesn't do the trick? (<i>No</i>)• What are some things you could do to reward a dog?	Vocabulary Sentence Review Ask your child to repeat the following vocabulary sentences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Without gravity, they were weightless.• Lava erupted from the volcano's crater.• The incredible whales made them feel anxious.• The boring speaker disturbed the audience.

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

Vocabulary	
ridiculous	equipped
gather	dome
solve	manage
deliver	slumped
telescope	pale

We've continued to read many exciting stories about space and space travel. In addition, we've started to read about animals and how to train them to do tricks. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 8 (after Lesson 80)

Your child has completed Lessons 71-80 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Teaching Animals a Hard Trick</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the rule for teaching animals tricks? (<i>Answer: Reward the animal when it does what you tell it to.</i>) • What are two ways they would reward the animal? (<i>Food or a pat on the head</i>) • Does this rule work for hard tricks? Why? (<i>No, when the animal can't do the trick at first, it doesn't get a reward, and it will stop trying</i>) • How do you get animals to do <u>harder</u> tricks? Explain in detail! 	<p>Colorado and Utah</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver and Greeley are two cities in _____? (<i>Colorado</i>) • What great mountain range do Waldo and Maria drive over when they go from Colorado to Utah? (<i>The Rocky Mountains</i>) • What direction do they travel to go from Colorado to Utah? (<i>West</i>) • What's the name of the city Waldo and Maria go to in Utah? (<i>Salt Lake City</i>) 	<p>Review</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does an inventor need a patent? What does a patent do? (<i>Answer: Yes. It protects them from others taking their idea or invention.</i>) • Is Japan north, south, east, or west of the United States? (<i>West</i>). • Would you weigh more, less, or the same on a smaller planet than Earth? (<i>Less.</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
deserve	beak
library	flop
admission	jammed
tightrope	shortly
tune	waste

We've continued to read about animal training and traveling in the United States. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 9 (after Lesson 90)

Your child has completed Lessons 81-90 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Facts About Coral Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where would you see many different kinds of coral? (<i>Underwater in a warm ocean</i>) • What's the name of the coral that looks like a brain? (<i>Brain coral</i>) • What are coral reefs made of? (<i>Skeletons of many tiny animals</i>) • Coral is easy to destroy. How long does it take to grow back? (<i>Years and years</i>) 	<p>Facts About Pressure Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If two balloons were underwater, one at 10 feet and the other at 90 feet, which one would have less air? (<i>Answer: The one at 90 feet</i>) • Is there any pressure on your body at the surface of the water? (<i>Yes, there is some</i>) • How far down would you have to go to have 2 times more pressure on your body? (<i>33 feet</i>) 	<p>Facts About the Iditarod Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Iditarod is held every year during what month? (<i>March</i>) • It starts in _____, Alaska, and ends in Nome. (<i>Answer: Anchorage</i>) • What is the person who drives a team of sled dogs called? (<i>A musher</i>) • Where does the musher usually stand? (<i>At the back of the sled</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
success	rapidly
gear	twilight
platform	grasp
deathly	overcome
panic	scene

We've been reading about ocean life and the Iditarod. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 10 (after Lesson 100)

Your child has completed Lessons 91-100 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Sled-Dog Teams Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do most sled-dog teams have an <i>even</i> or <i>odd</i> number of dogs? (<i>Even</i>) • The first pair of dogs in the team is called what? (<i>Lead dogs</i>) • What do the wheel dogs do when the sled gets stuck? Are they the <i>furthest</i> or <i>closest</i> to the sled? (<i>Wheel dogs have to pull the sled out. They are closest to the sled.</i>) 	<p>Supplies for the Race Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each musher must bring along enough supplies for the dogs and the musher to survive under severe conditions. What 4 items are mushers <u>required</u> to bring? (<i>An ax, a good sleeping bag, snowshoes, enough food for one day</i>) • How much food does each dog need every day? (<i>2 pounds</i>) What must the sled also have room for? (<i>At least one injured dog</i>) 	<p>Checkpoints Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do the mushers use checkpoints for? (<i>Resting their teams, making repairs, and feeding the dogs</i>) • Why are they called checkpoints? (<i>Race officials check to make sure all the mushers pass through</i>) • How many miles apart are the checkpoints? (<i>50 miles</i>) • How does food get to the checkpoints? (<i>Airplanes deliver it</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
<p>parka official endurance limp weary</p>	<p>trudged peered arrangements insist aimlessly</p>

We've continued to read many fun and exciting stories about the Iditarod. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 11 (after Lesson 110)

Your child has completed Lessons 101-110 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>The Speed of Light Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything faster than light? (<i>No</i>) • How far can light travel in <i>one</i> second: <i>186,000 miles, 200,000 miles, or 100,000 miles?</i> (<i>Answer: 186,000 miles</i>) • If you could travel at the speed of light, how many times could you go around Earth in one second? (<i>8 times</i>) 	<p>A Test on Matter Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which form of matter is air on Earth? (<i>Answer: gas</i>) • What form of matter is ice? (<i>Solid</i>) • What form of matter does ice become when it melts? (<i>Liquid</i>) • What do we call water in the form of gas? (<i>Steam</i>) 	<p>Learning About Molecules Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where did Al and the old man learn more about molecules? (<i>Inside a grain of sand.</i>) • What did a molecule actually look like once they were inside the grain of sand? (<i>A big blob, vibrating very fast.</i>) • How do molecules "act" when they're in the <u>solid</u> form of matter? (<i>They line up and stay in place.</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
chilly	relax
science	vibrate
swooping	galaxy
level	familiar
iron	molecules

We've learned so much by reading our new stories about science. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 12 (after Lesson 120)

Your child has completed Lessons 111-120 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Strange Sea Animals Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How deep did Al and Maria have to go to see the strange sea animals: <i>100 feet, 500 feet, or 300 feet?</i> (Answer: <i>300 feet</i>) • How big can some of the giant squid grow? (<i>Fifty feet long</i>) Do they have <i>arms</i> or <i>tentacles</i>? (Answer: <i>Tentacles</i>) • Which is smaller a <i>blue whale</i> or a <i>killer whale</i>? (<i>A killer whale</i>) • What other creatures had Al and Angela seen? 	<p>Learning About Muscles Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the name of the muscle on the front of your upper arm? (<i>Biceps</i>) • What does a muscle do when it works? (<i>It pulls and gets thicker and shorter</i>) • Can each muscle do more than one job? (<i>No</i>) • What would happen if the muscle on the back of your upper leg didn't work? (<i>You cannot bend your leg</i>) 	<p>Review Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the name of the coral that looks like a brain? (Answer: <i>Brain coral.</i>) • Do most sled-dog teams have an <i>even</i> or <i>odd</i> number of dogs? (Answer: <i>Even.</i>) • Is there any pressure on your body at the surface of the water? (Answer: <i>Yes, there is some.</i>)

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

Vocabulary	
intelligent	usual
universe	unbearable
balanced	wiggled
decorated	transparent
prove	addressed

We've continued to read entertaining stories about science. Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 13 (after Lesson 130)

Your child has completed Lessons 121-130 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p>Following Blood Through the Body Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where does blood become red? <i>(Answer: In the lungs)</i> • What color was it before it reached the lungs? <i>(Black)</i> • What does the heart do with the oxygenated blood? <i>(Pumps it to parts of the body that need fresh oxygen.)</i> • How many chambers does the heart have? <i>(Answer: 4)</i> 	<p>Learning About the Brain Different parts of the brain control different bodily functions.</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do nerves "tell" the brain? <i>(What the body part the nerve is in is feeling)</i> • How many nerves does each body part have that send messages to and from the brain? <i>(Answer: 2)</i> • What does your brain control in your body? <i>(All of your voluntary and involuntary actions and thought)</i> 	<p>How the Eye Works The eye works just like a magnifying glass. The eye bends light and forms a picture on the back of the eyeball.</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the picture on the back of the eyeball right side up or upside down? <i>(Answer: Upside down)</i> • What do we call the black hole in the front of the eye? <i>(The pupil)</i> • What does the lens do? <i>(Bends the light that comes into the eye.)</i>

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

Vocabulary	
blood vessel chamber cell magnifying pulse	nerve spiral absolutely suspended briskly

We've been reading more about how the human body works. Ask your child to tell you more about the bones, heart, and nerves!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 14 (after Lesson 140)

Your child has completed Grade 3 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*! We have worked on many reading, language, and writing skills this year. Your child worked hard to learn some very important reading skills necessary to become a fluent reader. Take a moment to congratulate your child on a job well done!

Even though the school year is ending, there are many things you can do to help your child continue to improve their reading, writing, and language skills:

- Continue to read to your child and have your child read to you, even if it's for a few minutes each day. This shows your child that you think reading is important.
- Encourage your child to spend time reading silently every day. Model the joy of reading by taking time to make it a family event.
- Enroll your child in a recreational reading program at the public library. Visit the library to borrow books as often as possible. Show them how to look for books on subjects of interest or how to ask the librarian for help.
- Keep paper, pens, and pencils available for writing. Ask your child to write something each day. Ideas include: notes to you, short stories, letters to friends and family, grocery lists, or lists of household chores.

Books to Read

There are many books about animal training, the solar system, animal migration patterns, Eskimos, dinosaurs, and ocean life. Your child can also find stories about interesting adventures and trips to amazing places! There's a book about almost any subject you can imagine! Here are some books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

Library Shelf
<i>Fossils Tell of Long Ago</i> by Alik <i>Miss Rumphius</i> by Barbara Cooney <i>The Chimpanzee Family Book</i> by Jane Goodall <i>Cassie's Journey: Going West in the 1860s</i> by Brett Harvey <i>Asteroid Impact</i> by Douglas Henderson <i>The Encyclopedia of the Ancient World</i> by Charlotte Hurdman, Richard Tames, and Philip Steele <i>Dinosaurs and Their Young</i> by Bianca Lavies <i>Grandfather's Journey</i> by Allen Say

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find a fun activity you can do with your child. Enjoy!