

My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading a realistic story called *Elisa's Diary*. It tells about the struggles a young girl faces when she leaves her home in Puerto Rico to live in a new country.

DAY
1

Vocabulary on the Go Ask your child to think about what it would be like to be new to the United States and not know much English. Talk about how people in a new country might feel if they don't speak the language of that country. Try to use some of these words.

embarrassed typically supposedly obvious

DAY
2

A Lesson Learned In the story, Elisa learns that working with someone else can help you solve a problem or overcome a fear. With your child, talk about books, movies, or TV programs where a character learns a similar lesson.

DAY
3

Here in the U.S. One character in the story tells about the quetzal bird. This bird symbolizes power and appears on the national flag of Guatemala as an emblem of national liberty. What ideas are important to people who are citizens of the United States? Discuss with your child what makes our country special.

CHALLENGE

Work with your child to make a flag with symbols that represent some of the ideas you discussed. What symbols will you use? Why did you choose them?

Join Forces Read and act out this scene together. In it, Marcus has written a poem about a snowstorm. His sister Kelly enters.

The Contest

KELLY: Can I read your poem, or would you be embarrassed?
(Marcus hands her the poem. She reads it and smiles.) Hey, I like this. You sure have a way with words. Is it homework?

MARCUS: *(sheepishly)* No, it's for a contest. The winner gets a free class at the arts center. I just think it needs something more, like an illustration.

KELLY: Well, I took a bunch of photos during that huge blizzard last year. You could use one of those.

MARCUS: But only one person can enter. We can't split a class.

KELLY: You're the poet, so you would enter. The photo would just be a gorgeous extra. Besides, I've already taken a class at the center—how do you think I became such a great photographer? Come on, let's go on a photo hunt!

Famous Teammates Together, brainstorm a list of famous partners, such as the Wright Brothers, or Lennon and McCartney. Help your child find books or websites to learn about one or more of these teams.



Book Links

- *Seeing Lessons*, by Spring Hermann
- *Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia*, by Barbara O'Connor **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge Together, search for a website about Puerto Rico. Discuss how Puerto Rico is similar to and different from where you live. What would you like and not like about living in Puerto Rico?

Home Letter

Dear Family,

This week we'll ask, "How can overcoming a challenge change someone's life?" In our main selection, the realistic fiction story **Elisa's Diary**, a young girl joins forces with another student to overcome the challenges they face. The class will also read a poem by Pat Mora called **Words Free As Confetti**.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: officially, preliminary, opponents, brutal, embarrassed, typically, gorgeous, supposedly, sweeping, obvious

Vocabulary Strategy: Suffixes *-ly, -ful*

Comprehension Skill: Theme—examine characters' qualities and motives to recognize the theme

Comprehension Strategy: Visualize—use text details to form pictures in your mind of what you are reading

Writing Focus: Narrative writing—revise a fictional narrative

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Look up definitions of this week's **Target Vocabulary** words and read them aloud to your child, asking him or her to decide which word fits each definition.

I'm Really Good At...

Talk with your child about the things each of you can do well (your strengths). Then talk about the things you'd like to improve (your weaknesses).

Put It In Writing

Help your child brainstorm ways to tackle one of his or her weaknesses. Ask your child to write a paragraph explaining the plan. Work together to revise the draft and make a final copy.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.

Elisa's Diary

1. ounce
2. sprawl
3. launch
4. loyal
5. avoid
6. basketball
7. moist
8. haunt
9. scowl
10. naughty
11. destroy
12. saucer
13. pounce
14. poison
15. August
16. auction
17. royal
18. coward
19. awkward
20. encounter
21. poise
22. loiter
23. exhaust
24. assault
25. alternate

Name _____ Date _____

Elisa's Diary
Vocabulary Word Cards

officially

typically

preliminary

gorgeous

opponents

supposedly

brutal

sweeping

embarrassed

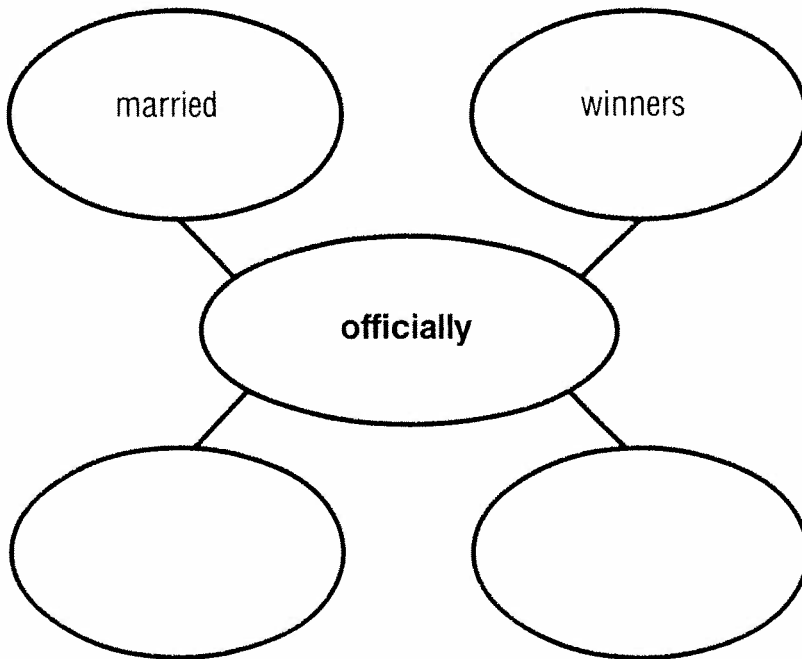
obvious

Target Vocabulary

Complete the Web with words that relate to the Target Vocabulary word in the center circle. Then choose one of the words and use it in an example sentence with the Target Vocabulary word. Make Webs and write example sentences for three of the remaining Target Vocabulary words.

Vocabulary

officially	preliminary	opponents
brutal	embarrassed	typically
gorgeous	supposedly	sweeping
obvious		



Example Sentences:

People become officially married at a wedding ceremony.

Name _____

Date _____

Suffixes *-ly, -ful*

Elisa's Diary
Vocabulary Strategies:
Suffixes *-ly, -ful*

For each word, write the base word and the suffix.

1. brightly = _____ + _____
2. quietly = _____ + _____
3. publicly = _____ + _____
4. beautiful = _____ + _____
5. wonderful = _____ + _____
6. hopeful = _____ + _____
7. harmful = _____ + _____
8. weekly = _____ + _____

Name _____ Date _____

Suffixes *-ly, -ful*

Elisa's Diary

Vocabulary Strategies:
Suffixes *-ly, -ful*

Word Bank

usually: most of the time **primarily:** first or mainly
apparently: obviously **fiercely:** with passion
definitely: for certain

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Read the definitions to help you choose the correct word.

1. Practice _____ ends at seven.
2. I _____ want to get to school early tomorrow.
3. He _____ did not return the library book, because it wasn't there.
4. The coaches are here _____ to help us become better players.
5. We will compete _____ with other teams in order to win the trophy.

