

My Journey Home

Family Connection

Your child is reading *Darnell Rock Reporting*, a realistic story that tells how one student's newspaper article results in a local controversy.

DAY
1

Vocabulary on the Go With your child, role-play a situation in which a driver returns to his or her car to find a parking officer writing a ticket for expired time on the parking meter. Try to use the following words in your dialogue.

violations exception minimum urge

DAY
2

Is It Persuasive? In order to persuade readers, a writer needs to supply reasons that support his or her ideas. Together, locate and read an editorial on a topic that interests your child in a print or online edition of a newspaper. Identify the reasons the author offers to back up his or her position. Are the author's reasons convincing? Why or why not?

CHALLENGE

What is your child's opinion about the topic? Discuss the reasons he or she feels this way.

DAY
3

Helping Out What are different things people can do to help people in a community? Together, make a list of different ways of helping. You can also search some local community websites to see if there are programs that are helping people in your area.

De-stress Out! Before giving a speech, as Darnell Rock does, it helps to relax. Together, read, discuss, and try these relaxation tips.

Slow Down, Feel Better

Want to feel less stressed? Try these tips to help you feel less tense and more confident.

Tip 1: Calm Your Mind

- Get comfortable and sit quietly. Close your eyes.
- Create a mental image of a restful place or scene. Focus on this image until you feel calmer.



Tip 2: Relax Your Body

- Tense and relax each muscle group, in this order: feet, calves, thighs, abdomen, back, arms, hands, neck.
- Hold your mouth open wide, then relax your mouth.
- Squeeze your eyes shut, then open them.

Tip 3: Breathe Deeply

- Inhale slowly, taking a full, deep breath. Hold for five seconds.
- Exhale slowly through your mouth. Repeat ten times.

Listen Up Together, look into upcoming talks and programs in your area that are of interest to your child. Use local newspapers, online resources, or postings at schools and libraries. Attend one together, and then discuss how effective each of you thinks the speaker was.



Book Links

- *The Daring Nellie Bly*, by Bonnie Christensen
- *Second Fiddle: Or How to Tell a Blackbird from a Sausage* by Siobhán Parkinson **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge Darnell suggests selling food from a community garden. Together, search the Internet to find gardens and farmers' markets near you. Plan a visit to see what is grown or sold there.

Home Letter

Darnell Rock Reporting
Home Letter

Dear Family,

Reading this week's selections will help students be ready to answer "Why is it important to be aware of your community's needs?" We will read a realistic fiction story, **Darnell Rock Reporting**. Darnell, a reporter for his school newspaper, stirs up controversy with an editorial proposing to use an empty lot as a garden for the homeless instead of a teachers' parking lot. Students will also read **Volunteer!**, a persuasive text that encourages readers to support community projects by volunteering.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: issue, deteriorating, dependent, exception, granted, effective, urge, violations, ordinance, minimum

Vocabulary Strategy: Greek and Latin suffixes *-ism*, *-ist*, *-able*, *-ible*

Comprehension Skill: Author's purpose— use text details to figure out the author's viewpoint and reasons for writing

Comprehension Strategy: Summarize— briefly tell the important parts of the text in your own words

Writing Focus: Narrative writing— prewrite a personal narrative

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Use the **Target Vocabulary** words in a "meaningful" word game! Give your child a definition so he or she can match it to a target word. Then exchange roles.

I Believe That...

Discuss an issue facing your child's school or your community as a whole. Help your child practice expressing his or her beliefs about the issue. Remind your child to include the reasons that support these feelings.

Write That Down

Talk with your child about a time someone in your family volunteered to help a neighbor or a school or community group. Have your child list what happened during that time. Encourage your child to also list his or her feelings at the beginning and end of the event.



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

Darnell Rock Reporting

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. lately | 22. merciless |
| 2. settlement | 23. seriousness |
| 3. watchful | 24. contentment |
| 4. countless | 25. suspiciously |
| 5. steadily | |
| 6. closeness | |
| 7. calmly | |
| 8. government | |
| 9. agreement | |
| 10. cloudiness | |
| 11. delightful | |
| 12. noisily | |
| 13. tardiness | |
| 14. forgetful | |
| 15. forgiveness | |
| 16. harmless | |
| 17. enjoyment | |
| 18. appointment | |
| 19. effortless | |
| 20. plentiful | |
| 21. suspenseful | |

Name _____ Date _____

Darnell Rock Reporting
Vocabulary Word Cards

issue

effective

deteriorating

urge

dependent

violations

exception

ordinance

granted

minimum

**From Parking Lot
to Garden**
Target Vocabulary

Target Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with Target Vocabulary words. Then finish the Idea-Support Map with other sentences that support the idea shown. Use words from the Target Vocabulary list.

Vocabulary

issue	deteriorating	dependent
exception	granted	effective
urge	violations	ordinance
minimum		

Idea: **Rules and laws are important in our society.**

When people have an _____ with each other, we have rules about the right way to solve the problem.

Penalties for breaking laws are an _____ way to make sure that people obey them.

We should _____ each other to obey the rules and laws of our community.

Many feel that our quality of life is _____ because people do not follow laws.

Greek and Latin Suffixes

-ism, -ist, -able, -ible

Darnell Rock Reporting

 Vocabulary Strategies:
 Greek and Latin Suffixes
-ism, -ist, -able, -ible

Choose a word from the Word Bank to complete each sentence. Be sure to spell each word correctly.

Word Bank

Greek suffixes:

-ism, -ist

optimism

pessimist

finalist

Latin suffixes:

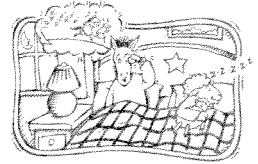
-able, -ible

responsible

valuable

horrible

1. The scary book gave me _____ nightmares.



2. Chris is a _____ in the contest.



3. A _____ always thinks the worst will happen.



4. Adam is _____ for all the cooking at his house.



5. He is a _____ member of the baseball team.



6. Jane is happy and has a lot of _____.

