

My Journey Home Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Off and Running*, a realistic story about a class election between two candidates with very different ideas and personalities.



Vocabulary on the Go The two student candidates in the story have to give a speech in front of their classmates. Together, recall a time when you or your child had to perform or speak before an audience.

Try to use some of the following words.

hesitated gradually scanned stalled prodded



Alike But Different Family members are alike in many ways, but they can be very different, too. With your child, discuss ways that two members of your family (or two family friends) are similar and different.

CHALLENGE

Help your child make a chart to compare how the two people you discussed are alike and different.



Little Ideas, Big Impact What are some ways to make your child's school a better place? Could more student art be displayed? Would a class or school read-along event help build community? Together, brainstorm a list of ideas.

Vote for Me Read and discuss the following selection with your child.

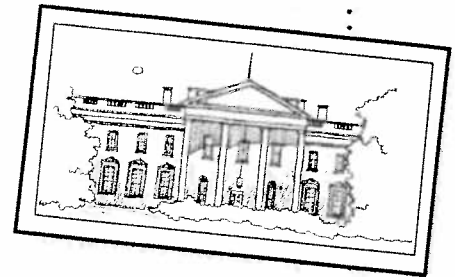
Campaign Slogans

When candidates run for President of the United States, they often come up with short, catchy statements to help convince people to vote for them. These slogans often get put on bumper stickers, posters, or campaign buttons. The slogans remind voters of what the candidates stand for.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln used this slogan for his campaign: “Don’t swap horses in the middle of the stream.” At that time, the United States was in the middle of the Civil War. President Lincoln was trying to convince voters that it would not be a good decision to switch Presidents in the middle of a war.

In 1928, Herbert Hoover used this campaign slogan in his campaign: “A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage.” President Hoover was trying to convince voters that if he was elected President, everyone in the country would prosper.

More recently, President Barack Obama used the slogan “Yes We Can!” for his presidential campaign. What kind of feelings do you think President Obama wanted to inspire? What do you think he was trying to say about himself?



Vote for Me Ask your child to imagine that he or she is running for president of the fifth-grade class. Then help your child design a bumper sticker with a slogan for his or her campaign.



Book Links

- *No Talking*, by Andrew Clements
- *All of the Above: A Novel*, by Shelley Pearsall **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge Help your child search the Internet for tips and ideas about giving an effective speech or presentation to an audience.

Off and Running
Home Letter

Home Letter

Dear Family,

Voting is important, no matter what the election. This week our main selection is about school elections. Throughout the week, we'll ask, "Why is determination a good quality for a politician to have?" **Off and Running** is this week's main selection. In this realistic fiction story, Miata and her friend Ana face a difficult race against two class clowns in their fifth-grade school elections. The class will also read a persuasive text, **Vote for Me!**

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: debate, inflated, shaken, decorated, gradually, hesitated, scanned, stalled, beckoned, prodded

Vocabulary Strategy: Using context

Comprehension Skill: Compare and contrast—examine how details or ideas are alike and different

Comprehension Strategy: Infer/predict—use text clues to figure out what isn't directly stated by the author

Writing Focus: Narrative writing—dialogue

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

Read aloud this week's **Target Vocabulary** words, and ask your child to spell and define them. If your child has trouble with any of the words, look them up in a dictionary together. Talk about which words can have more than one meaning.

Who Will Win?

Talk with your child about recent political elections. Ask if he or she remembers reading campaign signs or seeing television, radio, or print advertisements. Discuss the kinds of things candidates say and do during a campaign.

What Would You Say?

Have your child write a short dialogue between a person running for office and a news reporter.



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

Off and Running

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. sign | 22. reproach |
| 2. groan | 23. defy |
| 3. reply | 24. plight |
| 4. thrown | 25. opponent |
| 5. strike | |
| 6. mighty | |
| 7. stroll | |
| 8. compose | |
| 9. dough | |
| 10. height | |
| 11. excite | |
| 12. apply | |
| 13. slight | |
| 14. define | |
| 15. odor | |
| 16. spider | |
| 17. control | |
| 18. silent | |
| 19. brighten | |
| 20. approach | |
| 21. require | |

Name _____ Date _____

Off and Running
Vocabulary Word Cards

debate

hesitated

inflated

scanned

shaken

stalled

decorated

beckoned

gradually

prodded

Name _____ Date _____

Target Vocabulary

Running for President
Target Vocabulary

Complete the chart below with the remaining Target Vocabulary words and missing definitions, examples, and non-examples.

Vocabulary

debate	inflated	shaken
decorated	gradually	hesitated
scanned	stalled	beckoned
prodded		

Word	Short Definition	Example	Non-example
debate		a discussion about different viewpoints	total agreement
decorated	made pretty	balloons at a birthday party	
stalled	stopped		the never-ending rotation of Earth

Using Context

Off and Running
Vocabulary Strategies:
Using Context

Read the definitions in the box. Then read each sentence below.
Circle the letter that shows the correct definition for the underlined word in each sentence.

Word Bank

caught 1: to catch something; 2: to be seen doing something

pace 1: to walk back and forth; 2: how fast or slow someone walks

right 1: to be correct; 2: the opposite of left

1. The boys were right about which movie would be better.
A to be correct
B the opposite of left
2. Marla was caught eating cookies before dinner.
A to catch something
B to be seen doing something
3. I pace back and forth when I am nervous about something.
A to walk back and forth
B how fast or slow someone walks
4. If you have caught a virus, you will miss the game.
A to catch something
B to be seen doing something
5. He fell and broke his right arm.
A to be correct
B the opposite of left
6. It is hard to keep up a fast pace when you are tired.
A to walk back and forth
B how fast or slow someone walks

Off and Running

Vocabulary Strategies:
Using Context

Word Bank

tune

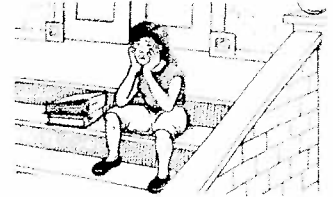
Off and Running
Vocabulary Strategies:
Using Context

Using Context

Read each sentence. Think about how the picture shows the meaning of the underlined word. Then circle the letter for the correct definition.

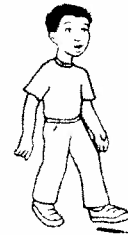
1. I sat on the step.

A to move by placing one foot in front of the other
B a ledge or a part of a staircase



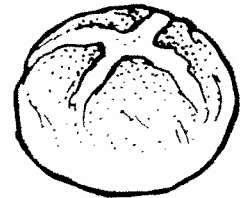
2. I took one step forward.

A to move by placing one foot in front of the other
B a ledge or a part of a staircase



3. I would like to eat another roll.

A a round bread
B to move something by turning it over and over



4. I did not roll the tire down the hill.

A a round bread
B to move something by turning it over and over

