

My Journey Home Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Old Yeller*, a classic story about the life of a pioneer family and the yellow stray dog who comes to mean so much to them.

DAY
1

Vocabulary on the Go If you see a dog running through a park, is it *racing* or *bounding*? Look together through newspapers, magazines, and books to find pictures of dogs in action. Take turns using different words to describe how each dog is moving. Try to use some of the following words.

stride frantic lunging romp

DAY
2

My Perfect Sibling The main character in *Old Yeller* is annoyed by his younger brother at times. With your child, imagine that you could order a perfect brother or sister from a catalog. What qualities would you want to see in your “perfect” sibling?

DAY
3

Pioneer Facts With your child, use the Internet to find information about pioneer life. What did pioneers eat? What kinds of houses did pioneers live in? What kinds of schools did pioneer children go to?

CHALLENGE

Work together to create and illustrate a “fact sheet” about the life of pioneers.

Snack Time Read this recipe together. Then try it out to make a treat that pioneer families might have enjoyed.

No-Bake Dried Fruit Granola Bars

Ingredients

1/2 cup chopped dried fruit
(raisins, figs, cranberries, apples)
3 cups granola
3/4 cup honey 1/4 cup corn oil
1/2 cup packed brown sugar



1. Put granola and dried fruit in a large bowl. Mix together.
2. Put honey, brown sugar, and oil in a small pot. Mix together.
3. Pour the mixture into the bowl with the granola and fruit. Stir until granola and fruit are coated well.
4. Press mixture into an 8- or 9-inch square pan. Refrigerate.
5. Cut into squares. Enjoy!

Poodles, Dalmatians, Pugs With your child, brainstorm a list of dog breeds. Look through library books and use the Internet if you need help. Write each breed on a card or slip of paper. Take turns choosing a card and describing that type of dog until the listener guesses the breed.



Book Links

- *Wings*, by William Loizeaux
- *My Side of the Mountain*, by Jean Craighead George **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge With your child, search the Internet for family movies about dogs. Then schedule a family movie night together.

Home Letter

Old Yeller
Home Letter

Dear Family,

This week we'll consider the question "How can dangerous situations bring people closer together?" Our main selection is the children's literature classic **Old Yeller**. In this historical fiction story, a dog helps a boy look after his family while their father is away. We'll also read the persuasive text **What Makes It Good?**, a review of the movie version of *Old Yeller*.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: frantic, lunging, stride, checking, wheeled, bounding, shouldered, strained, romp, picturing

Vocabulary Strategy: Adages and proverbs

Comprehension Skill: Understanding characters—use text details to explain why characters act, speak, and think as they do

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

Writing Focus: Informative writing—compare-contrast essay

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

It's time for another mini-spelling bee with the **Target Vocabulary**! Say each word aloud and ask your child to spell it and give a definition. For bonus points, ask your child to use the word in a sentence.

If I Could Have Any Pet...

Ask your child to talk with you about his or her idea of the perfect pet. Discuss details about the pet: what it looks like, how it behaves, what it eats, and so on.

Have You Met My Perfect Pet?

Have your child write a short essay about a perfect pet. Encourage your child to compare and contrast the pet with the dog in **Old Yeller**. How might the pet and the dog be alike? How might they be different?



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

Old Yeller

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. earth | 22. engineer |
| 2. peer | 23. interpret |
| 3. twirl | 24. dreary |
| 4. burnt | 25. external |
| 5. smear | |
| 6. further | |
| 7. appear | |
| 8. worthwhile | |
| 9. nerve | |
| 10. pier | |
| 11. squirm | |
| 12. weary | |
| 13. alert | |
| 14. murmur | |
| 15. thirsty | |
| 16. reverse | |
| 17. worship | |
| 18. career | |
| 19. research | |
| 20. volunteer | |
| 21. yearn | |

Name _____ Date _____

Old Yeller
Vocabulary Word Cards

frantic

bounding

lunging

shouldered

stride

strained

checking

romp

wheeled

picturing

Name _____ Date _____

Target Vocabulary

Black Bears
Target Vocabulary

Fill in the Feature Map below with synonyms, antonyms, examples, and non-examples for each Target Vocabulary word listed.

Vocabulary

| | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| frantic | lunging | stride |
| checking | wheeled | bounding |
| shouldered | strained | romp |
| picturing | | |

| Target Vocabulary Word | Synonym | Antonym | Example | Non-example |
|------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| frantic | anxious | calm | late for class | relaxing on beach |
| lunging | | | | |
| stride | | | | |
| shouldered | | | | |
| strained | | | | |
| bounding | | | | |
| romp | | | | |

Adages and Proverbs

Old Yeller**Vocabulary Strategies:** Adages
and Proverbs

Match each idiom to its meaning. Draw a line from
Column 1 to Column 2.

Column 1**Column 2**

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. a barrel of laughs | A. be patient |
| 2. think outside the box | B. doing a great job |
| 3. hold your horses | C. very funny |
| 4. on fire | D. a big mess |
| 5. can of worms | E. do it in a different way |

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Adages and Proverbs

Old Yeller
Vocabulary Strategies: Adages
and Proverbs

Word Bank

forget
rock

fast
another

mind

Read each sentence. Complete the adages and proverbs with words from the box above. Use context clues to complete each sentence.

1. Bad news travels _____.
2. Out of sight, out of _____.
3. If it's not one thing, it's _____.
4. Between a _____ and a hard place.
5. Forgive and _____.