

# My Journey Home Family Connection

Your child is reading *The Dog Newspaper*, an autobiographical selection that tells about the author's first efforts at writing and publishing a newspaper when she was young.

DAY  
1

**Vocabulary on the Go** How do you find out about the news? Do you prefer to read newspapers or magazines, watch television news programs, or use online sources? As you talk with your child about different types of news sources, use some of the following words.

**publication household edition background insights**

DAY  
2

**Fact or Opinion?** Newspaper stories include both facts and opinions. With your child, browse a front-page story in a recent newspaper. Together, locate several facts and opinions in the article. Then read an editorial together and find several facts and opinions in it.

**Tip!**

A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion is a statement that tells a thought, feeling, or belief that cannot be proven.

DAY  
3

**For Animal Fans** While *The Dog Newspaper* only lasted for a few issues, many magazines today focus on specific types of pets and other animals. Together, browse the magazine racks at a local library or bookstore, and see how many different magazines about animals you can find.

**CHALLENGE**

Help your child create a catchy name for a magazine about animals and design a cover that would appeal to potential readers.

**Animals in the News** The author's first newspaper article tells about a puppy who is saved by soldiers after its mother is killed during a war. Together, read and discuss this newspaper article about another orphaned animal.

## Unlikely Friends

KENYA, AFRICA – Amidst the destruction caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26 comes a heartwarming story of survival and unusual friendship.

When the aftereffects of the tsunami washed a family of hippos out to sea, a baby hippo was left behind on a reef, orphaned and terrified. Corralled by a group of human onlookers, the hippo was transported to the Haller Park sanctuary in Mombasa. Upon its release there, the baby hippo immediately sought refuge with a 130-year-old male giant tortoise living in the sanctuary.

Within a short time, the unlikely duo seemed to form a close bond. The baby hippo, named Owen for the rugby player responsible for saving him, now stays close to Mzee, the ancient tortoise, at all times. According to the manager of the sanctuary, the two animals are now inseparable companions. These improbable animal friends are visited daily by a continuous stream of park visitors, eager to witness a positive outcome from the natural disaster that rocked the region.

**A Family Story** In her autobiography, the author of *The Dog Newspaper* tells that she learned that stories need to be fresh and interesting. With your child, choose an exciting event that you would include in a biography about your family. Why would readers like to hear about in this tale? How can you make it more interesting to read?



### Book Links

- *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, by Beverly Cleary
- *Media Madness*, by Dominic Ali **CHALLENGE**



**Internet Challenge** Help your child search the Internet to find a recent story about animals in the news. If possible, browse different articles that tell about the story. Discuss the ways that the stories are similar and different.

# Home Letter

The Dog Newspaper  
Home Letter

## Dear Family,

Throughout the week, students will think about how to answer the question “What do facts and opinions contribute to a story?” Our main selection, **The Dog Newspaper**, is an autobiography of children’s author Peg Kehret. She fondly remembers her first effort as a ten-year-old author—a handwritten newspaper about neighborhood dogs. She wrote out twelve copies and sold them all! Students will then read **Poetry About Poetry** to see the fun poets have with...poetry!

### This week’s...

**Target Vocabulary:** career, publication, household, edition, required, formula, background, insights, uneventful, destruction

**Vocabulary Strategy:** Homophones and homographs

**Comprehension Skill:** Fact and opinion—decide whether an idea can be proved or is a feeling or belief

**Comprehension Strategy:** Analyze/evaluate—think carefully about the text and form an opinion about it

**Writing Focus:** Narrative writing—autobiography

## Activities to Do Together

### Vocabulary

Spend time with your child looking up **Target Vocabulary** in a print or an online dictionary. Then, in a conversation about your child’s favorite book, have him or her use as many vocabulary words as possible.

### Interview Practice

Many good writers spend time interviewing people to get information for their stories. Have your child interview you as if he or she were going to write a biography about you. Afterward, discuss what was easy or difficult about conducting the interview.

### The Real Thing

Have your child share the details of an event that recently happened in class. Then ask your child to write a paragraph about it, being sure to tell things in the same order in which they happened.



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

## The Dog Newspaper

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. duties      | 22. dictionaries |
| 2. earlier     | 23. boundaries   |
| 3. loveliest   | 24. satisfied    |
| 4. denied      | 25. tragedies    |
| 5. ferries     |                  |
| 6. sunnier     |                  |
| 7. terrified   |                  |
| 8. abilities   |                  |
| 9. dirtier     |                  |
| 10. scariest   |                  |
| 11. trophies   |                  |
| 12. cozier     |                  |
| 13. enemies    |                  |
| 14. iciest     |                  |
| 15. greediest  |                  |
| 16. drowsier   |                  |
| 17. victories  |                  |
| 18. horrified  |                  |
| 19. memories   |                  |
| 20. strategies |                  |
| 21. unified    |                  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Dog Newspaper**  
Vocabulary Word Cards

**career**

**formula**

**publication**

**background**

**household**

**insights**

**edition**

**uneventful**

**required**

**destruction**

**Print It!**  
Target Vocabulary

# Target Vocabulary

Fill in the missing Target Vocabulary word and definition in the T-Map below. Next, complete the example sentence using both of the related vocabulary words. Then fill out the next T-Map with another pair of related words and write an example sentence below it.

## Vocabulary

career	publication	household
edition	required	formula
background	insights	uneventful
destruction		

Word	Definition
1. career	_____
2. _____	past experience

### Example sentence:

If you want a \_\_\_\_\_ as a doctor, you will need a \_\_\_\_\_ in science.

Word	Definition
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

### Example sentence:

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# Homophones and Homographs

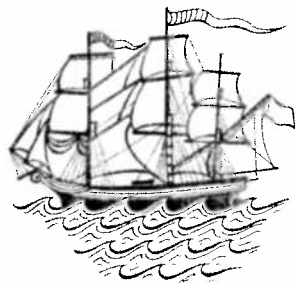
**The Dog Newspaper**  
Vocabulary Strategies:  
Homophones and Homographs

Think about the words in the first Word Bank below. Then choose a word from the Word Bank to complete each sentence.

## Word Bank

blew  
blue

sea  
see



1. I can \_\_\_\_\_ the boat.
2. The boat sailed across the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. My jacket is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ through my jacket.

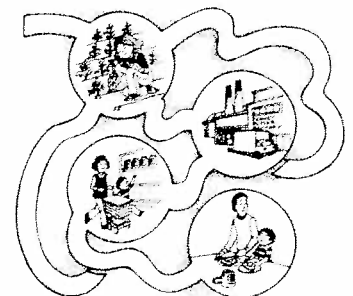
Think about the words in the Word bank below. Then choose a word from the Word Bank to complete each sentence. You may use each word more than once.

## Word Bank

lead

tear

1. Please \_\_\_\_\_ the way.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ rolled down his cheek.
3. Try not to \_\_\_\_\_ the paper.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ pipe is heavy.



# Homophones and Homographs

Write a definition and an example sentence for each word in the Word Bank. Write definitions and example sentences for two meanings of each word that is asterisked. You may use a dictionary to help you.

## Word Bank

pair  
pare

object \*  
permit \*

1. pair

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

2. pare

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

3. object

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

4. object

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

5. permit

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

6. permit

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

example sentence: \_\_\_\_\_



# Homophones and Homographs

**The Dog Newspaper**  
Vocabulary Strategies:  
Homophones and Homographs

Look at the pictures. Then think about the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence. Match each underlined word to its definition.

1. Daffodils are my favorite flower.

the upper surface in a room



2. She was sealing the envelope.

powder made from grinding grain



3. They bought flour to bake a cake.

blossom or part of a plant



4. We painted the ceiling green.

shutting or closing something tight

