

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 1 (after Lesson 10)

Dear Family,

We're off to another exciting school year! Your child will be learning hundreds of new vocabulary words and important comprehension skills in *Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4*. Reading with fluency and accuracy will become increasingly important for your child as the reading materials become more complex.

Research tells us that when the family becomes involved in the child's learning, the child makes better progress. Your child is growing up and becoming more independent, but helping your child with schoolwork will make a real difference!

At the end of every tenth lesson, I will be sending you the *Reading Mastery Signature Edition* home letters to give you helpful and timely information on topics you can help work on at home. They include

- information your child has been learning.
- important vocabulary words to review.
- an activity to help your child learn at home.

Even though the school year is just beginning, there are some things you can do from home now to help your child get started right:

- Visit your local library to check out books as often as possible.
- Make reading a family event. Silent read books of choice as a family, read to your child, and/or ask your child to read to you as often as possible.
- Provide a quiet place at home to read or study.
- Ask to see your child's homework and set up expectations for completion.
- Give as much help as needed.
- If homework involves studying for a test or quiz, ask your child a few questions to make sure the information has been learned.
- Praise your child for good reading and study habits.

Your involvement will be an exciting and helpful addition to your child's learning process! If you have any questions or want more ideas about how to help your child with reading, please contact me at the school. I'd be happy to talk with you.

Sincerely,

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 2 (after Lesson 20)

<p>The Cowardly Lion Ask your child: How does everyone in the forest expect the lion to act? <i>(Brave, he's supposed to be King of the Beasts.)</i> Does he act that way? How does he act? <i>(No, he's afraid of everyone, he's cowardly.)</i> The lion learned that if he did something, everybody got out of his way. What did he learn to do? <i>(Roar at them.)</i></p>	<p>The River "On the other side of the water, they could see the yellow brick road running through a beautiful country with green meadows dotted with bright flowers and trees...." Where did they accidentally leave the Scarecrow? <i>(Stuck on a pole in the middle of the river.)</i></p>	<p>Expressive Reading Reading with expression is important when reading aloud and adds depth to the story. Ask your child to read aloud with expression for you!</p>
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Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
fortunate hearty inconvenient jagged comrade	remarkable strides dreadful meadow scarcely	odor therefore stunned presence spectacles

We have been reading *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum. Our version is a little shorter than the original book, but the story remains the same. It is an entertaining story! Ask to hear more!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 3 (after Lesson 30)

Your child has completed Lessons 21-30 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?

The Journey Back

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 4 (after Lesson 40)

Your child has completed Lessons 31–40 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
		(Answer: Brought back together.) Why is reading important?

Here are some words you will have been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in the same sentence!

Vocabulary		
reeds echo reflection moss pasture	nudge stall exhausted abruptly dilapidated	shabby magnificent prance frantically relatives

We have read many good fictional stories! Ask your child what they liked best about *The Ugly Duckling* or *A Horse to Remember*.

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 5 (after Lesson 50)

Your child has completed Lessons 41-50 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*,

Amazing Animals

Ask your child:

About the scarlet tanager's migration to South America.

About the salmon's journey home to spawn.

About the woodchuck's "winter slowdown."

About the mystery of the Monarch butterfly. ~~My~~ ~~Martha~~ was supposed to be used as a hunting dog. How long does it take to train a young hound to track a scent? *(Two years or more.)*

Animals In Danger

Ask your child:

What do we call animals in danger of extinction?

(Endangered)

What are some endangered animals?

(Chimpanzee, African elephant, blue whale,

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 7 (after Lesson 70)

Your child has completed Lessons 61—70 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
The Life of Jackie Robinson Ask your child: What year is the narrator of the story remembering at the beginning? <i>(1947.)</i> Jackie Robinson was the first black man to do something in that year. What was it? <i>(Play major league baseball.)</i> Did fans like him at first? What would they do? <i>(No. They wouldn't cheer, they would ask each other who he is.)</i> Ask to hear more!	More About Jackie Robinson Robinson would often see his wife Rae sitting by herself at his games. Ask your child: Why do you think the other players' wives wouldn't sit with her? <i>(Because of her race.)</i> How did that make Robinson feel? <i>(Sad and angry.)</i> How did Robinson make things better for black athletes? <i>(By proving they should be allowed to play in the major leagues.)</i> How was Rae brave? <i>(She was all alone in the stands.)</i>	The Golden Touch Ask your child: What was the only thing King Midas loved more than gold? <i>(His daughter)</i> A stranger visited Midas in the treasure room. Who did Midas think the stranger was? <i>(A god.)</i> Do you think King Midas made a wise decision to wish for what he did? Why or why not?

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
daring biography insult mechanic promoted	organization decent contract oppose gleam	linen frenzy appetite greedy victim

We have finished reading a biography about Jackie Robinson and his contributions to history and baseball. Now, we're "traveling" to ancient Turkey to read a myth called *The Golden Touch*.

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 8 (after Lesson 80)

Your child has completed Lessons 71—80 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4*. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
Greek Gods and Goddesses Ask your child: Name a Greek god and goddess.	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> Ask your child: What did the merchant take that angered the Beast? <i>(A rose.)</i> What was the Beast's request in exchange for the rose? <i>(The merchant's life, or one of the merchant's daughters.)</i> Did the merchant accept the offer? <i>(Yes.)</i> What did Beauty find out while staying in the castle? <i>(That she loved the Beast.)</i>	Review Ask your child: What are the two groups of animals? <i>(Answer: daughter.)</i>

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence. Make it harder! Use more than one of these words in the same sentence.

Vocabulary		
conquer hospitality cultivate shrewd sympathy	inhabitant spacious abundant desolate persuade	poverty conceal portrait refuse despite

We have moved from reading myths to reading folktales. Ask to hear the stories or share some you know!

Activity Page

On the next page, you'll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 9 (after Lesson 90)

Your child has completed Lessons 81—90 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?

The Spider and the Fly

When the poem begins, the spider is trying to get the fly to come into his web by making the web seem attractive. "Will you walk into my parlor?" *said the spider to the fly.*

Ask your child:

Why did the spider want to attract the fly? (*To eat her.*)

In poetry, what is a pair of lines called? (*A couplet*)

Describe your favorite stanza in the poem.

Jane Addams

Ask your child:

What did Jane Addams do to help improve the situation for children who worked in factories? (*Worked to get a law passed preventing anyone under age 14 from working.*)

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 10 (after Lesson 100)

Your child has completed Lessons 91—100 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here’s an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What’s New?		
<p>About England in the 1500s Ask your child: England was just one part of a large island, called _____, which also contained Wales and Scotland. (<i>Britain</i>) Did the houses have plumbing or</p>	<p>The article begins in 1857 with a young writer named Sam Clemens on a steamboat going up the Mississippi River. Ask your child: What’s a steamboat? (<i>A boat powered by steam that runs on a river.</i>) The sailors would yell “mark twain” to signal what? (<i>Shallow water, two fathoms.</i>) Clemens never forgot the name “Mark Twain” and only signed it to what type of articles at first? (<i>Humorous articles.</i>)</p>	<p><i>The Prince and the Pauper</i> Ask your child: Why were people so happy about the birth of the Edward Tudor? (<i>He was a prince, heir to the throne.</i>) Were people as happy about the birth of the other baby, Tom Canty? Why? (<i>No, because he meant more work and less food for his family.</i>) How are Edward and Tom’s lives different? (<i>Tom is very poor, Edward is royalty, etc.</i>) Why did the boys decide to trade places? (<i>They each dreamed of living the others’ life.</i>)</p>

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence.

Vocabulary		
pauper	fathom	tattered
scurry	bankrupt	torment
opportunity	ignorant	dignity
properly	wisdom	stricken
optimistic	salute	identical

Activity Page

On the next page, you’ll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 11 (after Lesson 110)

Your child has completed Lessons 101–110 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 4. Here’s an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What’s New?		
<p>“Tom’s First Royal Dinner” Ask your child: In the afternoon,</p> <p>Did Tom like eating alone, surrounded by servants? How would you feel?</p>	<p>to know where the seal is? (<i>The prince.</i>)</p> <p>Does Tom know where it is? Why? (<i>He isn’t really the prince.</i>) Why do you think Tom was bored of being king? Over time, did Tom become <i>more</i> or <i>less</i> confident being the king? (<i>More confident.</i>)</p>	<p>Review Ask your child: Where did the most important deities live? (<i>Answer: On Mount Olympus.</i>) In poetry, what is a pair of lines called? (<i>Answer: A couplet.</i>) The sailors would yell “mark twain” to signal what? (<i>Answer: Danger that the river was getting too shallow for the steamboat.</i>)</p>

Here are some words your child has been learning. Ask your child to use each of these words in a sentence. Make it even more challenging; use more than one of these words in the same sentence!

Vocabulary		
inspect stout vast barge shudder	regret suspicious drowsy garment ordeal	conduct charred prosper vagrant motley

Activity Page

On the next page, you’ll find an activity you can do with your child. Have fun!

Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 4 / Home Letter 12 (after Lesson 120)

Your child has completed Grade 4 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*! We have worked hard to learn many reading, writing, language, and research skills this year. Take a moment to congratulate your child on a job well done!

Even though the school year is ending, there are many things you can do