

Welcome!

Grade 3, Unit 4 Foundational Skills

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will practice reading and spelling words with common vowel teams, prefixes and suffixes, and homophones.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn how to read and spell words with more than one syllable that have the vowel teams *ee/ea*, *ai/ay*, and *ue*. They will apply what they know about long vowel sounds to new words. Students will then work with the prefixes *un*–, *dis*–, *mis*–, *re*–, and *pre*–, as well as the suffixes *–ist*, *–ian*, and *–al*. Students will identify, use, and explain the meaning of homophones such as *ate* and *eight*, and they will practice spelling those homophones as well. Students will also practice reading with the Reader, *Frankie Figures It Out*. This story is about a young girl named Frankie who learns the importance of rules. She initially finds rules confusing, but, through experiencing various situations, Frankie learns that rules are needed for a safe and harmonious society.

Additional Practice

| Tricky Words and High-Frequency Words | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|--|
| Tricky Words | adventure | | lifeguard | | delicious | | library | | | | |
| High- Frequency Words | always | some- times | some- thing | idea | fall | never | draw | paper | last | today | |

Students can practice these words each night by doing the following activities:

- 1. **Sentence Creation:** Have your student use Tricky or High-Frequency Words in sentences. Encourage them to create sentences that demonstrate the meaning of each word and explain its context.
- 2. **Word Association:** Ask your student to think of other words related to the Tricky and High-Frequency Words. This will help reinforce their understanding of each word's meaning and usage.

| Words That Follow a Spelling Pattern | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| ee | ea | ai | ay | ue | | | | | |
| meeting | unseal | painful | Thursday | refueling | | | | | |
| deepen | deepen repeat | | essay | clueless | | | | | |

Students can practice these words each night by doing the following activities:

- 1. **Drawing and Writing:** Invite your student to write a sentence using the focus spelling patterns and then to draw a picture to match their sentence.
- 2. **Word Challenges:** Challenge your student to find words with the focus spelling patterns in books, in magazines, or around the house. When they identify a word, discuss its spelling and meaning.