

My Journey Home

Family Connection

This week your child is reading *Destiny's Gift*, a story about a young girl who is determined to save her beloved neighborhood bookstore when it's threatened with closure.



What's the Word? In *Destiny's Gift*, the main character selects a word for the day by pointing to a word in the dictionary with her eyes closed. If you have a dictionary at home, do the same with your child. Try working your word for the day into your conversations throughout the day.

Tip!

You can choose a word for the day from any printed source: a magazine, newspaper, or even a piece of junk mail.



Vocabulary on the Go Create a bookstore with your child. Arrange books, magazines, and other reading materials into attractive displays. Set up an area for a guest author to do story time or a book signing. Make posters and sale signs. Take turns being customers and bookstore employees. As you buy and sell, use this week's vocabulary words, either in writing or speaking.

raise earn figure contacted afford customers

CHALLENGE

Help your child practice math and money skills. Put price tags on items and set up a cashier's area with play money.



Know Your Neighborhood Talk about a few of your child's favorite neighborhood businesses. What does he or she like about that place? Which owners do you know? Together, name some words that describe each business, and if possible, talk about how each owner is like his or her business. How well do the owners and their businesses "fit" together?

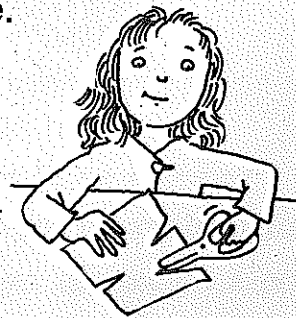
Cut That Out! Read these directions together. Then try making some cut-paper art, as in *Destiny's Gift*. Grab some scissors and start cutting!

Cut-Paper Portrait

Materials

- scissors
- colored construction paper
- glue stick
- old magazines

1. Cut out a large magazine picture of a person, from the shoulders up. Glue it onto construction paper.
2. Cut out shapes for the person's head, eyes, nose, ears, mouth, and eyebrows. (Don't worry if your shapes aren't perfect.) Glue these shapes to the picture.
3. Cut out strands of hair. Experiment with crazy colors if you'd like. Glue these down one by one.
4. Add fun details to the portrait, such as a hat, scarf, mustache, jewelry, or pair of sunglasses.



S.O.S. In the story, the neighbors make "Save Our Store" signs.
 Ask: What does this tell you about the characters? How does it help you understand them better? Then together, make a sign to support a cause you and your child both care about, such as "Love Our Library."



Book Links

- *Something About Hensley's*, by Patricia Polacco
- *Lawn Boy*, by Gary Paulsen **CHALLENGE**



Internet Challenge

Together, find out what volunteer opportunities are available near you. Look at websites for local newspapers, libraries, environmental organizations, and boys and girls clubs.