



**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 2** (after Lesson 20)

Your child has completed the first 20 lessons of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<p><b>The Tilt of the Earth</b> The Earth's poles are tilted. This tilt is the same during all seasons. Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What happens to the North and South Poles during the summer and winter? <i>(Answer: In summer, the Pole tilts towards the Sun and it's always daylight. In winter, the Pole tilts away from the sun and it's always dark.)</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Facts About Eskimos</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where do Eskimos live? <i>(Answer: Near the North Pole in Canada and Alaska.)</i></li><li>• Is it cold there? <i>(Yes)</i></li><li>• What do Eskimos need to wear? <i>(Parkas, warm clothes made of animal skins.)</i></li><li>• What types of animals would Eskimos see? <i>(walruses, killer whales, seals, polar bears, wolves)</i></li><li>• How do Eskimos carry things across the snow? <i>(On a sled pulled by dogs.)</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Facts About Killer Whales</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are killer whales the largest whale? <i>(No, they are much smaller than most other whales.)</i></li><li>• Are killer whales cold-blooded or warm-blooded? <i>(warm-blooded)</i></li><li>• Are killer whales smart? <i>(Yes, some scientists think they are smarter than dogs.)</i></li><li>• How do killer whales hunt? <i>(In packs)</i></li></ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>
sloshing grinding

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

Your child has completed Lessons 21-30 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<b>Facts About Clouds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clouds are made up of tiny drops of water.</li><li>• Your child can tell you many other interesting facts about clouds. Here's another example: Some kinds of clouds may bring bad weather.</li></ul> <p>Ask to hear more about clouds!</p>	<b>Piles and Layers of the Earth</b> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What's the rule about piles? (<i>Answer: Things closer to the bottom of the pile went into the pile earlier.</i>) Have your child demonstrate the rule by using common household items.</li><li>• How old are some of the layers you have read about?</li><li>• The Mesozoic layer has what kind of animal skeletons in it? (<i>Dinosaur</i>)</li></ul>	<b>Facts About Whirlpools</b> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are whirlpools made of? (<i>Answer: moving water</i>)</li><li>• What is a whirlpool shaped like? Discuss the shape in detail. (<i>a funnel; wide on top and narrow on the bottom</i>)</li><li>• Something caught in a whirlpool does what? (<i>It goes around and around</i>)</li><li>• Would it move up or down as it spins? (<i>Answer: down</i>)</li></ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
gulped	shallow
sight	stumbled
armor	faint
Bermuda Triangle	leathery
engineer	clearing

Lately, we've been reading several interesting fiction stories and nonfiction passages. Ask to hear more!

**Activity Page**

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

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 4** (after Lesson 40)

Your child has completed Lessons 31-40 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<p><b>Volcanoes and Earthquakes</b></p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are volcanoes made of? (<i>Answer: hot, melted rock</i>)</li> <li>• How do volcanoes "grow"? Describe how it happens. (<i>Melted rock piles up on cooled, hardened rock as it pours out of the surface of the earth.</i>)</li> <li>• The volcano keeps growing into the sky. Most of the items we use every day were invented after what year? (<i>1800</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name some things you wouldn't have if you lived before 1800.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Review</b></p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do Eskimos live? (<i>Answer: Alaska, Canada and North Pole.</i>)</li> <li>• How do killer whales hunt? (<i>In packs.</i>)</li> <li>• What's the rule about piles? (<i>Answer: Things closer to the bottom of the pile went into the pile earlier.</i>)</li> <li>• What are whirlpools made of? (<i>Spinning water.</i>)</li> </ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
remains	darted
swift	sharp-minded
quake	
approach	
divided	

Lately, we've been reading a number of engaging fictional stories. Ask to hear

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 5** (after Lesson 50)

Your child has completed Lessons 41-50 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

**What's New?**

***A Plan for Inventing***

Thinking like an inventor is difficult. The main character (Leonard) in our stories noticed every time he had a problem, he had a need for something that would solve that problem.

Ask your child to tell you more about Leonard, his idea for The Electric Eye, and other inventions.

***An Invention Fair***

Ask your child:

- Does an inventor need a patent? What does a patent do?  
*(Yes. A patent protects an invention from being stolen.)*

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 6** (after Lesson 60)

Your child has completed Lessons 51-60 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<b>Facts About Japan</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is Japan north, south, east, or west of the United States? (<i>West</i>)</li><li>• Japan is a small island. Which ocean do Japan and the United States share? (<i>Answer: the Pacific</i>)</li><li>• Which is smaller: Japan or Alaska? (<i>Japan</i>)</li></ul>	<b>Facts About the Solar System</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The solar system is made up of the sun and ____ planets. (<i>Answer: 9</i>)</li><li>• Is the sun in the middle or on the outside of the solar system? (<i>middle</i>)</li><li>• Is Earth the closest planet to the sun? (<i>Answer: No, Mercury is.</i>) Can you name all 9 planets? (<i>Answer: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto</i>)</li></ul>	<b>Gravity</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is gravity? (<i>Answer: the force that pulls things back to the planet</i>)</li><li>• What would happen if the Earth didn't have gravity? (<i>Things would float; things would fly away.</i>)</li><li>• Is gravity the same on all planets? (<i>No</i>)</li><li>• Would you weigh <i>more</i> or <i>less</i> on a planet with <i>stronger</i> gravity than Earth? (<i>More</i>)</li></ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>
solar system concluded

**Activity Page**

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

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 7** (after Lesson 70)

Your child has completed Lessons 61-70 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p><b>More About Planets and Gravity</b></p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which planets have <u>stronger</u> gravity: big planets or small planets? (<i>Big planets</i>)</li> <li>Would you weigh more, less, or the same on a smaller planet than Earth? (<i>Less</i>)</li> <li>Which planet is bigger: Earth or Saturn? (<i>Saturn</i>)</li> <li>How many moons does Earth have? (<i>One</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training Animals</b></p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When training animals, what's the first thing you do?</li> </ul>	<p>Ask your child to repeat the following vocabulary sentences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lava erupted from the volcano's crater.</li> <li>The incredible whales made them feel anxious.</li> <li>The boring speaker disturbed the audience.</li> </ul>

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

Vocabulary
ridiculous gather

**Activity Page**

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

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 8** (after Lesson 80)

Your child has completed Lessons 71-80 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

What's New?		
<p><b>Teaching Animals a Hard Trick</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the rule for teaching animals tricks? (<i>Answer: Reward the animal when it does what you tell it to.</i>)</li> <li>• What are two ways they would reward the animal? (<i>Food or a pat on the head</i>)</li> <li>• Does this rule work for hard tricks? Why? (<i>No, when the animal can't do the trick at first, it doesn't get a reward, and it will stop trying</i>)</li> <li>• How do you get animals to do</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What great mountain range do Waldo and Maria drive over when they go from Colorado to Utah? (<i>The Rocky Mountains</i>)</li> <li>• What direction do they travel to go from Colorado to Utah? (<i>West</i>)</li> <li>• What's the name of the city Waldo and Maria go to in Utah? (<i>Salt Lake City</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Review</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does an inventor need a patent? What does a patent do? (<i>Answer: Yes. It protects them from others taking their idea or invention.</i>)</li> <li>• Is Japan north, south, east, or west of the United States? (<i>West</i>).</li> <li>• Would you weigh more, less, or the same on a smaller planet than Earth? (<i>Less.</i>)</li> </ul>

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

Vocabulary	
deserve	beak
library	flop
admission	jammed
tightrope	shortly
tune	waste

We've continued to read about animal training and traveling in the United States. Ask to hear more!

**Activity Page**

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



**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 9** (after Lesson 90)

Your child has completed Lessons 81-90 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<b>Facts About Coral</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where would you see many different kinds of coral? (<i>Underwater in a warm ocean</i>)</li><li>• What's the name of the coral that looks like a brain? (<i>Brain coral</i>)</li><li>• What are coral reefs made of? (<i>Skeletons of many tiny animals</i>)</li><li>• Coral is easy to destroy. How long does it take to grow back? (<i>Years and years</i>)</li></ul>	<b>Facts About Pressure</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If two balloons were underwater, one at 10 feet and the other at 90 feet, which one would have less air? (<i>Answer: The one at 90 feet</i>)</li><li>• Is there any pressure on your body at the surface of the water? (<i>Yes, there is some</i>)</li><li>• How far down would you have to go to have 2 times more pressure on your body? (<i>33 feet</i>)</li></ul>	<b>Facts About the Iditarod</b> Ask your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Iditarod is held every year during what month? (<i>March</i>)</li><li>• It starts in _____, Alaska, and ends in Nome. (<i>Answer: Anchorage</i>)</li><li>• What is the person who drives a team of sled dogs called? (<i>A musher</i>)</li><li>• Where does the musher usually stand? (<i>At the back of the sled</i>)</li></ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
success	rapidly
gear	twilight
platform	grasp
deathly	overcome
panic	scene

We've been reading about ocean life and the Iditarod. Ask to hear more!

**Activity Page**

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

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 10** (after Lesson 100)

Your child has completed Lessons 91-100 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<p><b>Sled-Dog Teams</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do most sled-dog teams have an <i>even</i> or <i>odd</i> number of dogs? (<i>Even</i>)</li> <li>• The first pair of dogs in the team is called what? (<i>Lead dogs</i>)</li> <li>• What do the wheel dogs do when the sled gets stuck? Are they the <i>furthest</i> or <i>closest</i> to the sled? (<i>Wheel dogs have to pull the sled out. They are closest to the sled.</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Supplies for the Race</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each musher must bring along enough supplies for the dogs and the musher to survive under severe conditions. What 4 items are mushers <u>required</u> to bring? (<i>An ax, a good sleeping bag, snowshoes, enough food for one day</i>)</li> <li>• How much food does each dog need every day? (<i>2 pounds</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>A s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do the mushers use checkpoints for? (<i>Resting their teams, making repairs, and feeding the dogs</i>)</li> <li>• Why are they called checkpoints? (<i>Race officials check to make sure all the mushers pass through</i>)</li> <li>• How many miles apart are the checkpoints? (<i>50 miles</i>)</li> <li>• How does food get to the checkpoints? (<i>Airplanes deliver it</i>)</li> </ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
parka	trudged
official	peered
endurance	arrangements
limp	insist
weary	aimlessly

We've continued to read many fun and exciting stories about the Iditarod. Ask to hear more!

**Activity Page**

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

***Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 11*** (after Lesson 110)

Your child has completed Lessons 101-110 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of t

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 12** (after Lesson 120)

Your child has completed Lessons 111-120 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<p><b>Strange Sea Animals</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How deep did Al and Maria have to go to see the strange sea animals: <i>100 feet, 500 feet, or 300 feet?</i> (Answer: <i>300 feet</i>)</li> <li>• How big can some of the giant squid grow? (<i>Fifty feet long</i>) Do they have <i>arms</i> or <i>tentacles</i>? (Answer: <i>Tentacles</i>)</li> <li>• Which is smaller a <i>blue whale</i> or a <i>killer whale</i>? (<i>A killer whale</i>)</li> <li>• What other creatures had Al and Angela seen?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning About Muscles</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the name of the muscle on the front of your upper arm? (<i>Biceps</i>)</li> <li>• What does a muscle do when it works? (<i>It pulls and gets thicker and shorter</i>)</li> <li>• Can each muscle do more than one job? (<i>No</i>)</li> <li>• What would happen if the muscle on the back of your upper leg didn't work? (<i>You cannot bend your leg</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Review</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the name of the coral that looks like a brain? (Answer: <i>Brain coral.</i>)</li> <li>• Do most sled-dog teams have an <i>even</i> or <i>odd</i> number of dogs? (Answer: <i>Even.</i>)</li> <li>• Is there any pressure on your body at the surface of the water? (Answer: <i>Yes, there is some.</i>)</li> </ul>

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

<b>Vocabulary</b>	
intelligent	usual
universe	unbearable
balanced	wiggled
decorated	transparent
prove	addressed

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 13** (after Lesson 130)

Your child has completed Lessons 121-130 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*, Grade 3. Here's an update on some of the things your child has learned.

<b>What's New?</b>		
<p><b>Following Blood Through the Body</b> Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where does blood become red? <i>(Answer: In the lungs)</i></li><li>• What color was it before it reached the lungs? <i>(Black)</i></li><li>• What does the heart do with the oxygenated blood? <i>(Pumps it to parts of the body that need fresh oxygen.)</i></li><li>• How many chambers does the heart have? <i>(Answer: 4)</i></li></ul>	<p><b>Learning About the Brain</b> Different parts of the brain control different bodily functions.</p> <p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do nerves "tell" the brain? <i>(What the body part the nerve is in is feeling)</i></li></ul>	<p>Ask your child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the picture on the back of the eyeball right side up or upside down? <i>(Answer: Upside down)</i></li><li>• What do we call the black hole in the front of the eye? <i>(The pupil)</i></li><li>• What does the 2 2 lens do? <i>(Bends 2 2 light tdoescomes into 2 2 eye.)</i></li></ul>

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

**Reading Mastery Signature Edition, Grade 3 / Home Letter 14** (after Lesson 140)

Your child has completed Grade 3 of *Reading Mastery Signature Edition*! We have worked on many reading, language, and writing skills this year. Your child worked hard to learn some very important reading skills necessary to become a fluent reader. 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 to help your child continue to improve their reading, writing, and language skills:

- Continue to read to your child and have your child read to you, even if it's for a few minutes each day. This shows your child that you think reading is important.
- Encourage your child to spend time reading silently every day. Model the joy of reading by taking time to make it a family event.
- Enroll your child in a recreational reading program at the public library. Visit the library to borrow books as often as possible. Show them how to look for books on subjects of interest or how to ask the librarian for help.
- Keep paper, pens, and pencils available for writing. Ask your child to write something each day. Ideas include: notes to you, short stories, letters to friends and family, grocery lists, or lists of household chores.

**Books to Read**

There are many books about animal training, the solar system, animal migration patterns, Eskimos, dinosaurs, and ocean life. Your child can also find stories about interesting adventures and trips to amazing places! There's a book about almost any subject you can imagine! Here are some books that you and your child may enjoy reading together.

**Library Shelf**

*Fossils Tell of Long Ago* by Alik  
*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney  
*The Chimpanzee Family Book* by Jane Goodall  
*Cassie's Journey: Going West in the 1860s* by Brett Harvey  
*Asteroid Impact* by Douglas Henderson  
*The Encyclopedia of the Ancient World* by Charlotte Hurdman, Richard Tames, and Philip Steele