

Home Letter

Gus Takes the Train Home Letter

Dear Family,

This week we'll ask and explore the question "What happens on the train?" In the fantasy story **Gus Takes the Train**, we'll read about a stray cat that rides a train and gets a tour of the town. We'll also visit a zoo as we look at the informational text **City Zoo**.

This week's...

Words to Know: friend, full, good, hold, many, pull

Phonics Skills: Words with short *u* (*put, up, mug*); consonants *qu, z*

Vocabulary Strategy: Synonyms

Comprehension Skill: Story structure—tell the setting, character, and events in a story

Comprehension Strategy: Analyze/evaluate—tell how you feel about the text and why

Writing Focus: Narrative writing—class story (sequence of events)

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

During a family meal, ask the question "What are ways to be kind?" Take turns creating sentences to answer this question using this week's **Words to Know**.

Around Town

Discuss how people get around in your neighborhood. Take turns playing a game in which one of you chooses a place in the neighborhood, and the other says which method of transportation he or she would use to get there. If trains or subway cars are a popular transportation method in your town, talk about who rides on the trains and where the trains go.

Tell About It

Talk about a place that you and your child have visited together, such as a zoo or museum. Fold a piece of paper into thirds and ask your child to write a brochure that tells about that place.



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