



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our class finished the fourth unit of the *Making Meaning*[®] program. The students love the stories and poems we are reading! During this unit, the students visualized to make sense of the stories we read. *Visualizing* means making mental images while reading. Readers might imagine sights, sounds, smells, tastes, sensations, and emotions. Visualizing helps readers understand, remember, and enjoy reading.

The children also practiced the social skill of talking and listening to one another. Listening well and talking to others are skills that help students learn and become active members of the reading community. One powerful way to build your child's ability to listen and talk to others is to pay close attention to your child when the two of you talk about stories.

You can help your child practice visualizing by stopping every so often while reading aloud and asking questions such as:

- What did you see in your mind as I read to you?
- What words did you hear in the story that helped you create that picture in your mind?

In addition to stopping and discussing the story with your child, you might:

- Ask your child to close his or her eyes as you read and get a mental picture of the story.
- Give your child the opportunity to draw what he or she visualized, and then talk about the drawing.

Have fun reading, visualizing, talking, and listening to each other!

Sincerely,