

Scope at Home

Simple ideas to help your middle schooler explore the power of reading!

Dear Family,

Today your child is bringing home the March 2019 issue of *Scope*. Ask your child what he or she learned from it! Look at the table of contents on page 2, and ask your child to point out a favorite article.

Here are some more activities you can do at home to build your son's or daughter's reading and thinking skills:



- **Watch a video together for the article “The Pigeon Hero of World War I” on pages 4–9.**

Go to Scope Online (scope.scholastic.com) to watch the “Behind the Scenes” video for this gripping nonfiction feature. In the video, author Lauren Tarshis discusses how she researched and wrote her article about Cher Ami, a carrier pigeon that saved the lives of nearly 200 American soldiers during World War I. After watching, ask your child to tell you more about Cher Ami's story.



- **Check out the debate “Should You Go Trash-Free at Lunch?” on pages 10–12.**

Should students be required to pack trash-free lunches? Have your child read the article aloud to examine arguments on both sides of the debate, then discuss the idea as a family.



- **Read the poem “Gratitude” on the back page of the magazine.**

Take turns reading this delightful poem about gratitude aloud to one another, then discuss: What is gratitude? Why is it important? During the following week, keep a record of instances when you recognize good things, people, or places in your lives. At the end of the week, share your lists with one another.



As always, we hope you enjoy reading *Scope* as a family!

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher and the editors of *Scope*

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Simple ideas to help your middle-schooler explore the power of reading!

Dear Family,

This year, your child will receive *Scope*, a magazine published by Scholastic and created to help middle school students become strong, joyful readers. *Scope* features nonfiction, fiction, dramas, debates, infographics, poetry, and grammar. The magazine will come to the classroom eight times per year.

In class, students will use *Scope* to build reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills. You can play an important role at home in helping your son or daughter become a better reader. When your child brings the magazine home, here are a few ways you can enrich his or her learning:

1. Look through the magazine together.

Ask: Which articles did you read at school? Which one did you find most interesting? Why?

2. Read an article together, and have your son or daughter choose one new word from it.

He or she can then explain the word's meaning to the family. Have a competition to see who can use it the most in conversation!

3. Read the debate article together.

Ask: Which side do you agree with? Why?



With each issue, you will also get a letter with specific ideas for what you can do at home using the articles in that issue. But the most important thing is to simply enjoy spending time with your son or daughter while exploring the magazine. Even though your middle school student might be asserting more independence than in the past, reading together remains a wonderful activity to share. If English is not your first language, talk about the articles in the language you're most comfortable with.

We hope you'll look forward to seeing *Scope* when it comes home with your child and that it becomes a treasured part of your family routine!

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher and the editors of *Scope*

P.S. You can find even more great ways to use *Scope* with your child at Scope Online! Go to scope.scholastic.com and click Sign In. Then click "I am a student." When prompted, enter the classroom password.

The classroom password is

At Scope Online, you can:

- Listen to an audio version of a story or an article while reading along in the magazine.
- Watch videos that go with the articles and talk about what you find interesting.
- Review word meanings with a vocabulary slideshow and a fun interactive activity.

