

# Scope at Home

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

Dear Family,

Today your child is bringing home the April 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:

- **View a slideshow together for the paired texts “The Problem of Plastic” and “Can We Save Our Planet From Plastic?” on pages 11-15.**

Go to Scope Online ([scope.scholastic.com](http://scope.scholastic.com)) to view the “What to Know About Plastic Trash” slideshow before reading the articles silently together. After reading, discuss: What is throwaway culture? In what ways, if any, might your family change its habits to reduce the amount of plastic trash you produce?



- **Do a family read-aloud of *The Choice* on pages 16-21.**

This play is based on Frank Stockton's classic short story “The Lady, or the Tiger?” Assign roles and read the play aloud as a family. Then discuss which fate you think Princess Margaret chose for Thomas and what makes you think so.



- **Read “Voilà!” and “The Story Behind Voilà!” on pages 22-27.**

Take turns reading this beautiful work of fiction about a young Haitian American girl and her great-aunt aloud to one another. As you read, discuss the close-reading questions printed in the margins of the story. Be sure to check out the interview with author Debbie Rigaud that follows.



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

Sincerely,

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

# Scope at Home

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

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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*

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

## The classroom password is

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### 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.

