

Scope at Home

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

Dear Family,

Today your child is bringing home the November 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 activities you can do at home to build your child's reading and thinking skills with this issue:

- **Watch a video together for the article “Day of Disaster” on pages 4-10.**

Go to Scope Online (scope.scholastic.com) and watch the “Behind the Scenes” video in which author Kristin Lewis talks about her writing process. Then read the riveting true story of the 1909 Cherry Mine disaster aloud to one another. Discuss: How did this tragedy change America?



- **Read the short story “Good Enough” on pages 22-26.**

This beautiful work of fiction explores ideas about what really matters. Read the story together silently, then discuss: What makes an object important? How does wanting approval from others affect our choices?



- **Check out the annual “Write-a-Story” contest on the back cover.**

Author Jennifer A. Nielsen wrote first lines to three stories that don't yet exist. Ask your child which line is his or her favorite. Then brainstorm ideas for how you and your child might use the line to begin your own short stories.



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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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 in enriching your son's or daughter's learning at home. Here are a few ideas:

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 child 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?

4. Watch a video together.

At Scope Online, you can find videos that go with the articles. Watch one with your child and talk about what you find interesting.



With each issue, you will get a letter with specific ideas for what you can do at home. 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.

