



## Fifth Grade Parent Newsletter #9

This week we are reading “Jane Goodall’s 10 Ways to Help Save Wildlife” by Jane Goodall. Our reading skill focus will be will determining if a statement is fact or opinion. Our grammar focus will be determining if a verb is a main verb or a helping verb (walking or talking vs. have or has).

We will focus on some vocabulary words in this story. It would be helpful if you will reinforce the meaning of these words at home with your child. Please practice these words at home as well. Remember that this is a guide of what the word means. This is not the only definition for it!

Let’s have a great week!

Vocabulary Word	Meaning
conservation	preservation from harm or decay; protection from loss or from being used up
contribute	to help bring about
enthusiastic	eagerly interested
environment	condition of the air, water, soil, etc.
investigation	a careful search

example    level    human    quarrel    scramble    evil  
 oxygen    wooden    double    travel    cancel    fossil  
 toboggan    veteran    chisel    suburban    single    sudden  
 beagle    chuckle

obstacle    kindergarten    abdomen    pummel    enlighten

# SCHOOL to HOME

## Connections

### Chapter 5 Algebra

#### Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will be introduced to algebra. Some of the skills your child will practice are:

- recognizing, writing, evaluating, and simplifying algebraic expressions
- solving simple equations
- solving real-world problems involving algebraic expressions

---

#### Activity

Algebra uses symbols to make statements about things rather than using words.

In algebra, we often use letters to represent numbers.

Here,  $a$  will represent the number of apples and  $b$  will represent the number of bananas.

Show your child the following statement.

Walt buys  $a$  apples at 20 cents each, and  $b$  bananas at 30 cents each.

- Ask your child to study the statement carefully and explain what each of these expressions represent:

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) $a + b$ | (b) $20a$       |
| (c) $30b$   | (d) $20a + 30b$ |

Answers:

- (a) total number of apples and bananas
- (b) cost of apples
- (c) cost of bananas
- (d) total cost of apples and bananas

#### Vocabulary to Practice

A **numeric expression** is an expression that contains only numbers and symbols.

An **algebraic expression** is an expression that contains at least one variable.

A **variable** is a symbol, such as a letter, representing an unknown number in an algebraic expression.

To **solve** an equation means to find the value of the variable.

