Characters Facing Challenges

Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about the challenges and to build on the skills and concepts your child is learning in school. Hopefully, you'll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Talk It Up!

As you and your child are watching television, eating dinner, or driving to soccer practice, talk about different kinds of challenges. You can bring up the challenges a TV character might be facing or you can discuss one of the challenges you've faced over the years. Ask about the issues your child might have with friends or at school. What would the characters in our selections do? What lessons can be applied to your own life?

Vocabulary Connection

Act Out Those Adjectives

In this unit, students will meet some colorful characters and learn many new vocabulary words that describe their traits and behaviors, including several adjectives: **jealous, puzzled, clumsy, graceful, spoiled.** Discuss the meaning of each word. Write each word on an index card, shuffle the cards, then take turns picking one of these words, and acting it out. Bonus: List some other words (synonyms) you might use for these adjectives.

Comprehension Connection

What Happens Next?

An important reading skill is being able to make reasonable predictions, based on information in a text. To reinforce this skill, read a story or folktale with your child. Stop after the introduction and ask your child questions like: What do you think this story will be about? What clues can you find to tell you what the character is like or how the character will solve his or her problem?