Hurlock Elementary • 4th Grade Reading Family Letter

# Module 3 • Week 1: Rent Party Jazz

**Dear Families,**

We are starting a new module about people who never give up! This week, we read about people who faced hard times and kept going. We will also start group research, learn new prefixes, and begin an opinion essay. Here is what we are doing and how you can help at home!

## ⭐ Big Idea

**When things get hard, we can keep trying. Hard work and courage help us reach our goals.**

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|---|---|
| **confront** | to face a problem bravely |
| **dauntless** | brave; not afraid |
| **endurance** | the ability to keep going for a long time |
| **dedication** | working hard and caring a lot about a goal |

## 📚 What We Are Reading

- ***Never Give Up!*** — a text that makes a claim (argues a point) and gives reasons.
- ***Rent Party Jazz*** — historical fiction about a boy in New Orleans whose community comes together with music to help his family.
- ***Ellen Ochoa*** — a read-aloud about the first Hispanic woman to go to space.
- ***Kite Fighters*** — a story we use as a model for opinion writing.
- **Reading skills:** Finding the author's claim, plot, theme (the lesson), author's craft, and putting ideas together.

## 🔤 Word Study

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|---|---|
| **mis-** | means "wrong" or "badly": misspell, misread, mistake |
| **dis-** | means "not" or "the opposite of": dislike, disagree, disappear |
| **Synonyms & antonyms** | brave/bold (same); brave/afraid (opposite) |
| **Reading with expression** | Reading in phrases and letting our voice go up and down |

## 💬 New Big Words

| | |
|---|---|
| **auction** | a sale where people bid, and the highest offer wins |
| **drifting** | moving slowly, carried by air or water |
| **damp** | a little bit wet |
| **spare** | extra; or to give something you can do without |
| **verses** | parts of a song or poem |
| **chorus** | the part of a song that repeats; or a group of singers |
| **brimming** | full to the top |

## ✏️ Writing

- **Opinion essay:** We state our opinion, choose strong reasons, and begin drafting.
- **Verb tenses:** Past, present, and future, and keeping the same tense in our writing.
- **Helping verbs:** has, have, had + a verb: She has practiced. They had won.
- **Research project:** In groups, we brainstorm and begin research.

## 🏠 Things to Do at Home

☐ **Never give up stories:** Share a time someone in your family kept trying. What helped?
☐ **Prefix power:** Add mis- or dis- to words: like, agree, place, behave. What do they mean now?
☐ **Jazz time:** Listen to jazz music together. How does it make you feel?
☐ **Take a side:** Debate a fun question: "Are dogs or cats better?" Give 2 reasons.
☐ **Time travel:** Say a sentence three ways: past, present, future.
☐ **Word match:** Find a synonym and an antonym: happy → glad, sad.
☐ **Goal tracker:** Set one small goal for the week. Check in each night on your progress.
☐ **Hero search:** Learn about Ellen Ochoa or another person who never gave up.
☐ **Helping hands:** Talk about how neighbors or family can come together to help each other.
☐ **Read together:** Read for 20 minutes. Ask, "What problem did the character face?"

Thank you for being our partner in learning. Every minute you spend reading and talking with your child makes a big difference!

With gratitude,
**4th Grade Team**