



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Across the Wide Dark Sea” by Jean Van Leeuwen. A young boy narrates this story of the Mayflower’s voyage from Plymouth, England, to the Americas in 1620. The boy describes the difficult conditions the passengers endured during their nine-week journey and how grateful they are when they finally see land. You may enjoy discussing the story and doing these activities with your child. Together you can develop and explore your child’s language skills.

Pilgrim Facts

Ask your child to share what he or she knows about the Pilgrims, Plymouth, and the *Mayflower*. You may also wish to look in your local library for some of these titles:

- *The First Thanksgiving* by Jean Craighead George. Paper Star, 1996.
- *Eating Plates: A Pilgrim Book of Food and Manners* by Lucille Rech Penner. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.
- *Three Young Pilgrims* by Cheryl Harness. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1995.

Vocabulary

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Across the Wide Dark Sea”:

rigging	beams
furl	lurked
huddled	settlement
vast	

Discuss the meanings of these words. Challenge your child to use as many of these words as possible in a story or an anecdote.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Family Beginnings: A Journey

Your child may wish to interview you about your family’s history in America. Help him or her record answers to questions such as these: When did our ancestors first come to America? Where did they come from? How did they travel? What did they leave behind or give up to come here? How did they decide where to settle? What language did they speak? Did they ever regret coming to America? Your child may wish to share with classmates what he or she learns about your family’s history.

