



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Dear Mr. Henshaw,” by Beverly Cleary. This realistic fiction story is told through a series of diary entries written by Leigh Botts. Leigh is a sixth grader who doesn’t get to see his dad, a truck driver, as much as he would like since his parents’ divorce. Leigh has other problems, too. Someone is stealing part of his lunch at school, so he makes a lunchbox alarm to stop the thief. At the same time, he struggles to find a good story topic for his entry in the Young Writers’ Yearbook. His story about a day he spent riding on his dad’s rig earns Leigh the chance to have a lunch with Angela Badger, an author. Leigh feels really good about himself when Mrs. Badger calls *him* an author and compliments his story.

With your child you can develop and explore his or her language skills by doing the following activities.

Creative Solutions

Discuss how you and your child might have designed a lunchbox alarm. The following titles provide information about electricity and the process of scientific experimentation:

- *Blinkers and Buzzers: Building and Experimenting with Electricity and Magnetism* by Bernie Zubrowski and Roy Doty. Beach Tree Books, 1991.
- *Understanding Electricity* by Gary Gibson. Cooper Beech Books, 1995.

VOCABULARY

Word for the Day

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Dear Mr. Henshaw”:

insulated	refinery	muffle
grade	partition	submitted
prowls		

Discuss the different meanings of these words. Try to set aside time each day during the week to have your child practice using these words in sentence.



TIME TO READ

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

Write About Special Days

Encourage your child to ask family members to write a brief description of a day that was special. Then arrange a time when family members can get together and read their stories. Your child may wish to ask questions following the readings to find out how topics were chosen and if writing about something familiar made it easier to write.

