



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “The Down and Up Fall” by Johanna Hurwitz. In this story, a girl named Bolivia Raab is persuaded to allow her pet parrot, Lucette, to be part of a rain forest display set up in a classroom by the school nature club. The assistant principal visits and is scared by a snake. Soon after, the artificially heated room becomes so hot that the sprinklers are set off. With the help of a custodian, order is restored, but the assistant principal suggests that it is time for the club to move on to another topic.

For the Birds

You and your child might enjoy visiting an aviary at a zoo or a pet store. Discuss and compare the birds’ coloring, size, beak and claw shape, and songs. You might then borrow a book on birds from the library and see whether you can find information about any of the birds you saw.

VOCABULARY

Word Mix-up

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “The Down and Up Fall”:

transformed
enthusiastically
apparently

investigate
decor
corridor

Discuss the meanings of these words. Then have your child write each word in large letters on index cards. Cut each word into two or three parts. Then mix up the pieces, and challenge your child to see how quickly he or she can put the word parts together correctly.

Tropical Tales

If you or someone you know has spent time in a tropical region, arrange for your child to interview that person. Work with your child to help him or her think of questions to ask. Then help your child locate on a map some of the places mentioned.

Join the Club

In “The Down and Up Fall,” the members of the nature club had fun creating their display. Talk with your child about interests you share. Then find out if there are any clubs devoted to one of these interests that both of you could join.



TIME TO READ

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

