



# School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs” by Lensey Namioka. This realistic fiction selection tells the story of Eldest Brother, who hopes to become a famous violinist but lacks the money to buy himself a violin worthy of his talents. With the help of his younger brother and sister, Eldest Brother plays his violin at a street fair to earn money, but he discovers that it is not as profitable as he had hoped. Then he begins to discover the secret of how to please a crowd. First he plays more dramatically and includes crowd-pleasing tunes, not just classical selections. He then meets a four-year-old girl who can’t quite manage the complicated songs she tries to play on her violin. To the delight of the street fair audience, Eldest Brother intersperses music lessons as they play duets.

## Family Music Night

In the story, the musicians play Irish jigs, Chinese folk tunes, Paganini, and Mozart. Borrow recordings of these types of music from our local library and hold a family music night. Encourage family members to dance along with the music. Discuss which types of music are favored.

## Vocabulary

### Guess the Vocabulary Word

While reading “Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs,” your child has earned the following new vocabulary words:

arcade	vendors	sulkiness
hilarious	flourish	novelty
unaccompanied		

Ask your child to define each word. Then play a game in which you say, “I am thinking of a word.” Have your child ask you questions about the word until she or he guesses it. Then switch roles to repeat the process.



### TIME TO READ

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

## Families Help Each Other

Have your child interview family members about things they need help with. Your child can make a chart showing her or his findings. Then work together to figure out how each family member can help one another to complete the desired task. Add stars to the chart whenever a task has been completed by a family member and a helper.

