Parents,

This is the exciting time of year when we begin sending mini-books home with your child to help develop reading strategies, fluency and comprehension skills! The book your child will bring home has been read in our guided reading groups, so there will be some familiarity with the text. We encourage the children to read and reread this book several times during the evening. We always ask the children to look at the pictures, as they often give great detail which can be used in the retelling of the book. During reading, ask your child to find high frequency words in the text. Another great activity is taking a word in the book, such as **mat** and asking your child to change the beginning sound to /c/ (producing cat) or the ending sound to /p/ (producing map). When we manipulate the sounds of a word to form new words, it helps to build our **phonological awareness**.

After your child has read the book several times, it is time to ***retell the story***. You may use the visual of the hand, sent home earlier in the year, or simply ask the following questions for fictional books:

**Characters**- Who are the characters in the story and what can you tell me about each one? We help the children describe the characteristics of the people or animals in the book, rather than simply tell what they may look like.

**Setting-** *Where* and *when* does this story happen? Be specific! Tell us the exact location in the house or name the season, if applicable.

**Big Idea**- This is the *main idea* of the story. Ask your child to use one sentence to tell about the book.

**Events-** This is where we encourage LOTS of detail! The students should be incorporating much of the detail that is in the pictures, as well. We also work on sequencing the events of the story.

**Connections**- What does this book make you think about? This can be a personal connection or a connection to another book read.

Regardless of the day your child receives his/her book, please return all books on **Friday** of the same week. Thank you so much for your support!

Happy Reading! ☺

Mrs. Stewart