

# Spelling Newsletter

## for Students and Their Families

### Getting Started

Your child is using *Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary*. Its authors have developed word lists according to spelling patterns and word parts common to English to help your child learn to spell the words in the weekly word lists and to provide skills that will help him or her spell many other words. The program also emphasizes vocabulary-building activities with words from the unit word lists and with theme-related word lists. Many opportunities are provided for your child to apply proofreading, dictionary, and thesaurus skills, to use writing skills, and to participate in an assortment of learning games.

In Units 1 through 5 of the book, children have learned spelling patterns for the short and long *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u* vowel sounds.

### Word Lists

Your child has been studying these words and others with similar patterns.

| UNIT 1 | UNIT 2 | UNIT 3 | UNIT 4 | UNIT 5 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| sad    | wet    | cake   | these  | tap    |
| glad   | job    | mine   | nose   | tape   |
| win    | mud    | grape  | rose   | tub    |
| if     | plum   | prize  | mule   | tube   |
| want   | said   | give   | one    | slid   |
| been   | does   | have   | love   | slide  |

### Family Activity

Play Pick a Vowel with your child. Write each of the five vowels—*a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*—on a scrap of paper. Drop the vowels into a small paper bag. Then write a Spelling Word, leaving a blank space where the vowel goes. Have your child pick a vowel and say whether it fits in the space to create a word. If it does, he or she says the word and writes it. If it doesn't, your child chooses a new vowel and tries again.

Some words have two vowels. Have your child draw two blank spaces for such words. Require that children identify both vowels before they say and write these words.

Review at least two words from each unit. Then look at your child's list to see whether he or she came up with any new words that are not on the lists.