

Tip Sheet: Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Dear Parents and Families:

As your students progress on their journey of critical literacy, there are many things you can do at home to support classroom learning.

Consider:

- **Reading the assigned classroom texts** so that you can talk with your child about the reading.
- **Asking your child the following questions about books they are reading:**

Who are your favorite characters and why?

What do you imagine the setting of the story to look like? What makes you think this?

What are some of the conflicts or problems that the characters face?

How do characters deal with their many challenges or conflicts? How do you feel about their decisions and choices? What would you have done in their situation?

What confuses you? What do you still want to know?

What do you think will happen next?

Are there any other books that you have read that remind you of this one? In what ways?

What do you like about the book? Dislike?

Is there anything in the story that reminds you of something you have experienced? Explain.

- **Reading aloud with your child.** You can take turns reading passages or characters' dialogue. You may use different voices to represent characters in the literature and stop once in a while to discuss some of the above questions.
- **Visiting the public library.** You may encourage your child to try other books by the same author or to select books with similar conflicts, settings, or themes. Ask your librarian to assist you in finding similar books.
- **Writing letters with your child** as you are both reading the class-assigned literature. Consider starting a journal or notebook where you can write to one another and have a record of the ongoing discussion about the reading. You might address some of the questions listed above to help you get started.