Dear Family Members,

Our class is about to begin a Writer’s Workshop unit on Realistic Fiction. Realistic fiction features characters and plots based on everyday life and are set in familiar places such as at home or school. Realistic fiction stories also involve the characters working out a conflict or problem. During this unit, we will read and analyze many published realistic fiction stories, and your child will have the opportunity to brainstorm, draft, revise and edit, and publish his or her own realistic fiction story.

This is always an exciting unit in which children get to explore their own experiences and learn how writers draw on what they know to create stories. You may wish to spend some time talking with your child about how we all encounter problems every day, and we figure out ways to deal with them. Ask your child how he or she solves everyday problems.

You can also ask your child questions to learn about his or her progress. For example:

• Have you brainstormed ideas yet? Would you like to share your ideas with me?
• What have you written so far?
• What part of writing do you enjoy most?
• What part of writing is difficult for you?
• Are there other realistic fiction stories you would like to tell?

Thanks in advance for supporting your child’s writing experiences. I look forward to sharing his or her work with you!

Sincerely,