

*Go-Along Page 1*

# Let's Talk About Spelling

With a partner, choose either role:

- a first grader who is learning how to write and wondering why spelling matters.
- a fourth grader explaining the importance of spelling well to the first grader.

Then, write a dialogue between them using tricky words.

First Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Fourth Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

First Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Fourth Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

First Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Fourth Grader: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Write-On Sheet 1*

## ***Seasons of the Circle* Book Blurb**

Write a book blurb for *Seasons of the Circle*. Don't be afraid to use challenging spelling words. You can check the ones you're unsure of when you're finished.

### **THINK ABOUT**

- Did I use standard English spelling unless I chose not to for a good reason?
- Did I check words with *ie* and *ei*?
- When adding suffixes to words, did I change *y* to *i*, double the final consonant, or drop the silent *e* when necessary?
- Did I check my work for words I have trouble spelling?

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## What's Up With Those Colons?

Place colons where they belong in the following sentences.

- Native Americans lived in different types of housing pueblos, tipis, and longhouses.
- O'odham women weave different materials into baskets yucca, bear grass, and l'huk seeds.
- Arizona tribal names mentioned in *Seasons of the Circle* Havasupai, O'odham, and White Mountain Apache.
- There are many American Indian tribal nations to read about further Lakota, Mohawk, Suquamish, and Cherokee.

Create a sentence of your own inspired by the book to show you can use a colon correctly. Be sure to use commas correctly, too!

*Write-On Sheet 2*

## A Note About the Note

After listening to the Author's Note in *Seasons of the Circle: A Native American Year*, explain how clearly the title captures Joseph Bruchac's purpose for writing the book.

Include at least one sentence that shows how well you can use a colon and one that shows how well you can use commas.

### THINK ABOUT

- Did I place quotation marks around dialogue and direct quotes?
- Did I punctuate complex sentences correctly?
- Did I use apostrophes to show possessives and contractions?
- Did I begin new paragraphs in the right places?

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## Thrill-Seeking Capitals

Your assigned capitalization rule: \_\_\_\_\_

In *Seasons of the Circle: A Native American Year* and other informational texts, find sentences in which your capitalization rule has been applied correctly and write them down.

	Text Title	Sentence
1.	_____	_____ _____
2.	_____	_____ _____
3.	_____	_____ _____
4.	_____	_____ _____
5.	_____	_____ _____

*Write-On Sheet 3*

# It's a Capital Ride!

How are capital letters like amusement park rides? Provide an explanation that will inform your reader about the use of capitals in writing. Feel free to illustrate your writing.

## THINK ABOUT

- Did I capitalize proper nouns for people, places, and things?
- Did I capitalize dialogue correctly?
- Did I capitalize abbreviations, acronyms, and people's titles correctly?
- Did I capitalize the title and/or other headings?

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## Oh, My Aching Adverbs!

In each of the sentences below, there is a verb and an adverb. Underline both. Then think of a more vivid, “just right” verb.

*Example:*

Maria kicks the ball forcefully across the soccer field.

Maria boots the ball across the soccer field.

Jackrabbits run quickly through the meadow.

---

Menominee tribe members really liked wood because they used it for many things.

---

Cherokee people gathered berries all the time.

---

Maliseet hunters gently stepped on the snow so they didn’t leave tracks.

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*Write-On Sheet 4*

## Dear Mr. Bruchac

Write a message to Joseph Bruchac about what you've learned from *Seasons of the Circle* about Native American tribes and the use of conventions in writing.

### THINK ABOUT

- Did I use special words such as homophones, synonyms, and antonyms correctly?
- Did I check my sentences for subject-verb agreement?
- Did I use verb tense (past, present, future) consistently throughout my piece?
- Did I make sure pronouns and their antecedents (the word they stand for) agree?