This week your child is reading Dear Mr. Winston, a story about a girl who claims to be genuinely sorry that she brought a snake into the library.

**Vocabulary on the Go** Have a conversation with your child about why people may be asked to apologize. Give an example of a good apology, and ask your child to give another good example. Use some of these words.

- fault
- apologize
- proof
- insisted
- genuine

**I Conclude** Play a game with your child that focuses on the connection between clues and conclusions. One player makes a statement about an everyday event, such as “I just put bread in the toaster. Soon I smell something burning.” The other player draws a conclusion from the clue, such as “The toast is burning.”

**Tip!** A conclusion is a reasonable guess based on information that is provided.

**Don’t Be Afraid!** The librarian in the story is so frightened of snakes that he faints. Talk with your child about snakes and other things that make people faint, shriek, tremble, or run. Why are people afraid of these things? How can people overcome their fears?

Help your child search the Internet for information about phobias. Make a list of names for different kinds of phobias. What is similar about the names?
I’m Sorry    Read this note with your child. Can you and your
child unscramble the bold letters to name a word that makes sense?
(Here’s a list of the words, in random order: admit, apologize, apology,
ashamed, fault, regret, sorry.)

A Complete Apology
I would like to epozoilag for the trouble I caused. I forgot
to take my boots off when I came into the house. That was my
auftl. The carpet is now wet and muddy, and I am truly ryros.
I also tracked mud into the kitchen, and I am
hadseam of myself for that. In the kitchen,
I noticed the freshly baked pie, and I tamid
that I helped myself to a slice, or two or three.
I treering to say that only about half the pie
is still left for our guests tonight. I hope you
will accept my heartfelt aglopoy.

Oh No!    In the story, a snake is accidentally let loose in the library.
What are some other catastrophes that could accidentally happen in
your home or school? Work with your child to name a few. Then talk
about the effects of the catastrophes.

Book Links
- My Dad’s a Birdman, by David Almond
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E. L. Konigsburg  CHALLENGE

Internet Challenge The girl in the story uses a reference book to try to find a picture of her
snake. What animal has your child seen that he or she wants to identify? Search for an appropriate website
together, and find a picture and the scientific name of your animal. Learn a few interesting facts about
the animal.