

**LITERATURE UPDATE**

***The Lotus Seed***

This story tells about the life of a woman, from her girlhood in Vietnam to her new life as a refugee in the United States.

***Immigrants Today***

This textbook selection tells about events that caused immigrants to settle in the United States and how those immigrants have affected U.S. culture.

***Brothers in Hope***

Based on a true story, this selection tells about the journey of a group of Sudanese boys, orphaned by war, as they look for a safe place to live.

## A New Chapter

Our life events are like chapters in a book. Each one is the beginning of something new but also links our past to our future. In class, we are learning about how past events influence the future. We discuss the causes of these events and the effects they can have on a person's life. We are also learning the following skills to help us become better readers and writers:

**Unit 3 Skills Focus**

- Vocabulary:** Use Word Parts
- Reading:** Visualize
- Literary Analysis:** Point of View; Compare Writing on Same Topics; Text Structure (Chronological Order, Cause and Effect)
- Grammar:** Use Adjectives and Adverbs
- Writing:** Write a Cause-and-Effect Essay

## ANALYZE CAUSE AND EFFECT

Work with a family member to analyze cause and effect in the news.

1. Read a news article or watch a television newscast about an event in the news. Identify the causes of the events. Write the causes in the chart below. (For example, a car accident might have been caused by bad weather.)
2. Talk about the effects of the event. Write the effects in the chart below. (For example, new road signs may have prevented future car accidents and made the roads safe.)

Cause	Effect
→	
→	

3. Read what you wrote together.
4. Bring your cause-and-effect chart to school and share it with your class.