
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY SECOND GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 1?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: A Season of Change

Module 2: American West

Module 3: Civil Rights Heroes

Module 4: Good Eating

In this first module, *A Season of Change*, we will study how the world changes every season. We will observe the colors, textures, and causes in the cycle of the seasons and consider paintings of rainy, sunny, and snow-covered landscapes. We will discover how change affects us all.

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *How Do You Know It's Fall?*, Lisa M. Herrington
- *Why Do Leaves Change Color?*, Betsy Maestro

Picture Books (Literary)

- *The Little Yellow Leaf*, Carin Berger
- *A Color of His Own*, Leo Lionni
- *Sky Tree*, Thomas Locker

Poems

- "Weather," Eve Merriam

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Autumn Landscape*, Maurice de Vlaminck
- *Bathers at Asnières*, Georges Seurat

- *Hunters in the Snow*, Pieter Bruegel the Elder
- *Paris Street, Rainy Day*, Gustave Caillebotte

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What changes in “Weather”?
- How do changes in fall weather impact people and nature?
- How does the Little Yellow Leaf change?
- How does the chameleon change?
- How does weather impact leaves in fall?
- How does *Sky Tree* show the cycle of seasons?
- How does change impact people and nature?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your second grade student, ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer*, Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter*, Wendy Pfeffer
- *Poppleton in Winter*, Cynthia Rylant
- *Frog and Toad All Year*, Arnold Lobel
- *Henry and Mudge in the Sparkle Days*, Cynthia Rylant
- *Snow*, Cynthia Rylant
- *Over and Under the Snow*, Kate Messner

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE SEASONS:

Take a walk in the park together. Ask:

- *What do you notice about the leaves on the trees?*
- *What animals have we seen in the park?*
- *What do you wonder about the animals during this season?*
- *What is your favorite part about being outside during this season?*

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY SECOND GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 2?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: A Season of Change

Module 2: The American West

Module 3: Civil Rights Heroes

Module 4: Good Eating

In this second module, *The American West*, we will study the growth that came from the struggle of early settlers and pioneers. By analyzing texts and art, students answer the question, *What was life like in the West for early Americans?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *Journey of a Pioneer*, Patricia J. Murphy
- *Plains Indians*, Andrew Santella
- *The Buffalo Are Back*, Jean Craighead George

Picture Books (Literary)

- *John Henry*, Julius Lester
- *John Henry: An American Legend*, Ezra Jack Keats
- *Johnny Appleseed*, Steven Kellogg
- *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*, Tomie dePaola
- *The Story of Johnny Appleseed*, Alike

Poetry

- "Buffalo Dusk," Carl Sandburg

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PAINTING:

- *Among the Sierra Nevada, California*, Albert Bierstadt

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How did the actions of American Indians and early Americans impact the prairie in the American West?
- What was life like for Plains Indians in the early American West?
- What was life like for pioneers in the early American West?
- What life lesson can we learn from the story of Bluebonnet?
- What life lesson can we learn from the story of Johnny Appleseed?
- How do different authors tell the story of John Henry's life?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your second grade student, ask:

- *What's happening?*
- *What does a closer look at words and illustrations reveal about this text's deeper meaning?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *New York's Bravest*, Mary Pope Osborne
- *Cowboys and Cowgirls: Yippee-Yay!*, Gail Gibbons
- *Locomotive*, Brian Floca
- *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*, Tomie dePaola
- *The Rough-Faced Girl*, Rafe Martin

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT THE AMERICAN WEST:

Visit the library together. Ask the librarian to recommend a book on the American West, or select one of the titles in the list above. Take a look at the illustrations with your second grade student and ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder about this illustration?*
- *Who were the early Americans?*
- *How did they live their lives?*
- *How did they deal with the challenges of a developing nation?*
- *What was life like in the American West?*

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 2 STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 3?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: A Season of Change

Module 2: The American West

Module 3: Civil Rights Heroes

Module 4: Good Eating

In the third module, *Civil Rights Heroes*, we will study a number of strong and brave people who responded to the injustice they saw and experienced. By analyzing texts and art, students answer the question: *How can people respond to injustice?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington*, Frances E. Ruffin; illustrations, Stephen Marchesi
- *I Have a Dream*, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; paintings, Kadir Nelson
- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*, Ruby Bridges
- *The Story of Ruby Bridges*, Robert Coles; illustrations George Ford
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*, Duncan Tonatiuh

Poetry

- "Words Like Freedom," Langston Hughes
- "Dreams," Langston Hughes

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PHOTOGRAPH:

- *Selma to Montgomery March, Alabama, 1965*, James Karales

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- "Different Voices," Anna Gratz Cockerille
- "When Peace Met Power," Laura Helweg

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Ruby Bridges Interview”
- “Civil Rights – Ruby Bridges”
- “The Man Who Changed America”
- “Sylvia Mendez and Sandra Mendez Duran”
- “The Freedom Singers Perform at the White House”

OUR CLASS WILL LISTEN TO THESE SONGS:

- “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around”
- “This Little Light of Mine”
- “America (My Country Tis of Thee)”

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What injustices did people face before the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- What was Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream for the world?
- How did Ruby Bridges respond to injustice?
- How did the Mendez family respond to injustice?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Grade 2 student, ask:

- What is the essential meaning, or most important message, in this book?

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

Biography

- *Martin’s Big Words*, Doreen Rappaport
- *Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President*, Ann Malaspina
- *Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader, Legend*, Justine & Ron Fuentes
- *I Have a Dream*, Martin Luther King, Jr

Historical Account

- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down*, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*, Carole Boston Weatherford
- *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage*, Selina Alko

Picture Books

- *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*, Ellen Levine
- *Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas*, Dean Robbins
- *I Could Do That! Ester Morris Gets Women the Vote*, Linda Arms White
- *A is for Abigail*, Lynne Cheney
- *The Listeners*, Gloria Whelan

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES:

Visit the library together. Ask the librarian to recommend a book on Civil Rights, or select one of the titles in the list above. Take a look at the illustrations with your second grader and ask:

- What do you notice and wonder about this illustration?
- Is this character a hero?
- How did this person respond to injustice?

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 2 STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 4?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: A Season of Change

Module 2: The American West

Module 3: Civil Rights Heroes

Module 4: Good Eating

In Module 4, *Good Eating*, we will study the digestive system and the importance of healthy food choices. By analyzing texts and art, students answer the question: *How does food nourish us?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS

Picture Books (Informational)

- *The Digestive System*, Christine Taylor-Butler
- *The Digestive System*, Jennifer Prior
- *Good Enough to Eat*, Lizzy Rockwell
- *The Vegetables We Eat*, Gail Gibbons

Picture Books (Literary)

- *Bone Button Borscht*, Aubrey Davis
- *Stone Soup*, Marcia Brown

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *The Beaneater*, Annibale Carracci
- *Cakes*, Wayne Thiebaud
- *Two Cheeseburgers, with Everything (Dual Hamburgers)*, Claes Oldenberg

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- “Can Milk Make You Happy?” Faith Hickman Byrnie
- “Debate! Should Sugary Drinks Be Taxed?” TIME for Kids

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Food and Family,” Nadine Burke
- “Try Something New,” Jamie Oliver
- “Planting Seeds: The White House Garden and a Brooklyn School Farm”
- “Fruit Veggie Swag”

OUR CLASS WILL VISIT THIS WEBSITE:

- “Eating Your A, B, C’s...”, Kids Discover

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How can food nourish my body?
- How can food nourish a community?
- Where does nourishing food come from?
- How can I choose nourishing foods?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your Grade 2 student, ask:

- How does this text build your knowledge of good eating? Share what you know about good eating.

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Strega Nona*, Tomie dePaola
- “A Moose Boosh: A Few Choice Words About Food,” Eric-Shabazz Larkin
- *The Seven Silly Eaters*, Mary Ann Hoberman
- *Thunder Cake*, Patricia Polacco
- *Too Many Tamales*, Gary Soto
- *Sopa de Frijoles: Bean Soup**, Jorge Argueta
- *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*, Jacqueline Briggs Martin

- *Your Digestive System*, Rebecca L. Johnson
- *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*, Sharon Creech
- *The Quest to Digest*, Mary K. Corcoran
- *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? The Story of Food*, Chris Butterworth
- *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table*, Pat Brisson

*This text is in both English and Spanish.

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT GOOD EATING:

Visit the library together. Ask the librarian to recommend a book on nutrition, or select one of the titles in the list above. Read the text with your Grade 2 student and ask:

- What do you notice and wonder about the foods in this book?
- Would these foods nourish your body? Why or why not?