What’s Happening in English Language Arts Class?
Your child’s class will use Wit & Wisdom as our English Language Arts curriculum. By reading and responding to excellent fiction and nonfiction, your student will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.

MODULE 1
FIRST GRADE

A WORLD OF BOOKS

In this first module, A World of Books, we will study the power of books and libraries around the world. Some people have climbed mountains just to find books. Others have used boats or even on elephants to get to libraries. In this module, we will ask: How do books—and the knowledge they bring—change lives around the world?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Nonfiction Picture Books
- Museum ABC by The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- My Librarian Is a Camel by Margriet Ruurs

Fiction Picture Books
- Tomás and the Library Lady by Pat Mora and Raul Colon
- Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown and John Parra
- That Book Woman by Heather Henson and David Small
- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

OUR CLASS WILL LOOK AT THIS PAINTING:
- The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere, Grant Wood

Find all the links online at http://bit.ly/witwisdom1st
OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How do library books change life for Tomás?
- How does the Biblioburro change life for Ana?
- How do people around the world get books?
- How does the packhorse librarian change life for Cal?
- How do books change my life?

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- "Biblioburro: The Donkey Library," Ebonne Ruffins, CNN
- "Pack Horse Librarians," SLIS Storytelling

VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word. They should also know how to use each word in a sentence:

- Borrow
- Eager
- Imagination
- Migrant
- Inspire
- Remote
- Mobile
- Scholar
- Portrait
- Duck
- Landscape
- Signs
- Still life
Your child will work on this learning goal:

At the end of this unit, your child will work on this goal:

Write and draw to tell a story (narrative) about a character whose life has changed because of books.

- The narrative will include:
  - illustrations (pictures that explain the story)
  - characters (who they are writing about)
  - setting (from My Librarian is a Camel text)
  - resolution (how the character solved a problem)

- Your child will use complete sentences, correct capitalization, and correct punctuation

Check out mClass Home Connect for more great activities linked to your child’s learning!

TRY THESE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

**PHONICS:** Your child is learning lots of phonics skills to become a strong reader.

Please try this activity to help them with what they are learning in school:

**Practicing Beginning Sounds**

Your child is working on beginning sounds. Ask your child’s teacher what beginning sounds they are working on.

- **Step 1:** Find and cut out pictures of different objects from a magazine or junk mail. Make sure you choose objects that are not confusing to your child. For example, pictures of a dog, cat, bird, ball, book, or car work well.

- **Step 2:** Spread the pictures out on a surface and say, “I am thinking of something that starts with the /b/ sound.” **Be sure to give your child the sound of the letter** and not the letter name.

- **Step 3:** Have your child find the picture that starts with the letter sound you just shared.

Remember, you can try these activities any time. Do as much or as little as your time allows. You can do Let’s Talk while running errands or cooking dinner.

LET’S TALK:
Talk with your child about how their day went. You can help them connect what they learned in school with their life.

Ask your child:
• How do kids in other countries get books? Would you want to travel to any of those countries? Why?
• What is your favorite book? Why?

WRITING:
Your child is learning how to write and express themselves and what they have learned. Please try this writing activity at home:

A Book About My Life
Your child is learning about how books change lives across the world.

• Step 1: Ask your child about an important moment in their life. For example, starting school, getting a new sibling, learning how to ride a bike.

• Step 2: Have your child create the cover page for a book about that important moment. Ask them to write a title (for example, "Alexandra can ride a bike"), illustrate their book cover, and include the author (their own name!).

REMINDERS
• Ask your child’s teacher for copies of their end of unit tasks
• Ask your child’s teacher for the mClass Home Connect Letter
• Ask your child’s teacher what reading skills they need more support with
• Watch for your child’s report card
• Schedule your parent teacher conference
• Check the City Schools calendar each week for important dates/reminders

RESOURCES
Want to read more books about this unit at home? Here are some suggestions:

• Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant
• Rain School by James Rumford
• Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen
• Abe Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books by Kay Winters
• Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
• Wild About Books by Judy Sierra
• The Library by Sarah Stewart

TIP: Find these books for free online at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. You can ask the library to have them ready for you to pick up. Or, you can ask the library to mail books to you.

Free Places to Explore and Learn Online
• Walters Art Museum: Visit here to explore.
• Baltimore Museum of Art: Visit here to explore. (If you want to go to the BMA, you will need to reserve a time.)