
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 7 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: Identity in the Middle Ages

Module 2: Americans All

Module 3: Language and Power

Module 4: Fever

In the third module, *Language and Power*, students have many rich and engaging opportunities to explore the power of language to inspire, persuade, and control. Throughout, students ask: What is the power of language?

OUR CLASS WILL READ AND VIEW THESE TEXTS:

Novel (Literary)

- *Animal Farm*, George Orwell

Poetry

- “‘B’ (If I Should Have a Daughter,” Sarah Kay (text and video)
- “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers—,” Emily Dickinson (text and video)
- “Dreams,” Langston Hughes (text and video)
- “Caged Bird,” Maya Angelou (text and video)
- “First They Came for the Communists,” Martin Niemoller

Speeches

- Inaugural Address, John F. Kennedy (text and video)
- Address to the United Nations Youth Assembly, Malala Yousafzai (text and video)
- “I Have a Dream,” Martin Luther King, Jr. (text and video)

Articles

- “‘Ask Not...’: JFK’s Words Still Inspire 50 Years Later,” Nathan Rott
- “Thanks to Malala: Top 3 Ways Malala Has Changed the World,” Alex Harris

- “Is Martin Luther King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ the Greatest in History?” Emma Mason
- “How Advertising Targets Our Children,” Perri Klass

Historical Accounts

- Excerpts from “Friedrich Engels, Revolutionary, Activist, Unionist, and Social Investigator,” Rosalie Baker
- Excerpts from “Grandeur at Abu Simbel,” Steven Snape
- Excerpts from “Let’s Tour the Temple,” Ramadan B. Hussein

Book Reviews

- “In 1946, the *New Republic* Panned George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*,” George Soule
- Review of *Animal Farm*, Michael Berry
- Review of *Animal Farm*, Bapalapa2, student reviewer
- “Why You Should Read *Animal Farm*,” Kainzow, blogger

Video

- Video versions of poems and speeches
- Mini BIO—Joseph Stalin

Advertisements

Propaganda Posters

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW PHOTOGRAPHS OF ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE:

- The Temple at Abu Simbel
- Great Sphinx at Giza

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

1. How and why does language inspire?
2. How and why does language persuade?
3. How and why is language dangerous?
4. How and why does language influence thought and action?

QUESTION TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 7 student reads, ask:

- What is the essential meaning, or most important message, in *Animal Farm*?

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*, Candace Fleming
- *Joseph Stalin*, Sean McCollum
- *Breaking Stalin's Nose*, Eugene Yelchin
- *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, Peter Sís
- *Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Sepetys
- *Stalin: Russia's Man of Steel*, Albert Marrin

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING THE POWER OF LANGUAGE:

Spend some time together reading poetry, looking through the newspaper or a magazine, watching a political debate or political commercial, or looking at Internet content. Identify examples of language being used to inspire emotion, persuade, or control. Ask questions such as:

1. For poetry: What feelings does the poem inspire? What words, phrases, and images are especially powerful?
2. For advertisements: How is the advertiser trying to persuade us? What techniques does the advertisement use?
3. For politicians: What is the politician trying to convince us of or inspire us to believe? Are these appeals grounded in pathos, logos, or ethos?
4. For all content: What is the message beneath the words? Who is the intended audience and what is the intended purpose?