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# WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

## WHAT IS MY GRADE 3 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: The Sea

Module 2: Outer Space

Module 3: A New Home

### **Module 4: Artists Make Art**

In the fourth module, *Artists Make Art*, students will explore the creative impulse as they read biographies of artists in the fields of dance, literature, the visual arts, and music. In addition to reading about the artists, students encounter the work of each of these artists. We will ask: *What is an artist?*

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

### **Picture Books, (Literary)**

- *Emma's Rug*, Allen Say

### **Picture Books, (Informational)**

- *Alvin Ailey*, Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*, Jen Bryant
- *Action Jackson*, Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan
- *When Marian Sang*, Pam Muñoz Ryan

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- "Working as a Team on Children's Books," Roberta Hershenson
- "Brian Pinkney," National Center for Children's Literature
- "A Signature Work," Muse Magazine

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS POEM:

- "Willow Poem," William Carlos Williams

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS INTERVIEW:

- "Andrea Davis Pinkney Interview Transcript," Scholastic Students

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold*, Charles Demuth
- *My Egypt*, Charles Demuth
- *Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist)*, Jackson Pollock
- *Number 11, 1952 (Blue Poles)*, Jackson Pollock
- *Mural*, Jackson Pollock

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PHOTOGRAPH:

- Marian Anderson singing in front of Lincoln Memorial

## OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, Marian Anderson
- Excerpt from 1988 interview with Alvin Ailey
- Revelations at 50, Alvin Ailey
- Christine Dixon discussing Blue Poles
- Jackson Pollock, Hans Namuth
- Newsreel footage of Marian Anderson's first Lincoln Memorial
- Excerpts of *Revelations*, Alvin Ailey

## OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What inspires artists?
- How do artists make art?
- What are some character traits that are useful to artists?
- Why is art important?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

- As your Grade 3 student reads, ask, “How does this text build your knowledge of artists and art?”
- Share what you know about artists and art.

## BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *The Dreamer*, Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring*, Jan Greenberg
- *The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau*, Michelle Markel
- *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art*, Barbara Rosenstock

- *Mario's Angels: A Story about the Artist Giotto*, Mary Arrigan
- *An Eye for Color: The Story of Joseph Albers*, Natasha Wing
- *The Garden of Monsieur Monet*, Giancarlo Ascari
- *Electric Ben*, Robert Byrd
- *Who Was Leonardo da Vinci?*, Roberta Edwards
- *Who Was Pablo Picasso?*, True Kelley
- *Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist*, Jan Greenberg
- *Jackson Pollock*, Mike Venezia
- *Firebird*, Misty Copeland & Christopher Myers
- *Ellington Was Not a Street*, Ntozake Shange
- *Georges Seurat*, Mike Venezia
- *Pippo the Fool*, Tracey E. Fern
- *Michelangelo*, Diane Stanley
- *Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer*, Robert Byrd
- *Sandy's Circus: A Story about Alexander Calder*, Tanya Lee Stone
- *Stone Giant: Michelangelo's David and How He Came to Be*, Jane Sutcliffe
- *The Music in George's Head*, Suzanne Slade
- *Mr. Matisse and His Cutouts*, Annmarie van Haeringen
- *Jose! Born to Dance*, Susannah Reich
- *Edgar Degas: Paintings that Dance*, Kristin N. Cole
- *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White*, Melissa Sweet

## IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT ARTISTS AND ART:

Find opportunities to explore art in your area. Consider:

- Visiting a local art museum or exhibit.
- Attending a musical concert.
- Attending a dance performance.
- Attending a poetry reading or other literary event.

Deepen your child's experiences with art by engaging in art activities together. Consider:

- Working together to create an art project, discussing how you are using the materials for specific purposes.
- Singing together, noticing harmonies, melodies, and rhythm.
- Read favorite poems aloud at home.
- Dance together, noticing how you are using your body to express emotions or ideas.

