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# WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

## WHAT IS MY FOURTH 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 Great Heart

### **Module 2: Extreme Settings**

Module 3: The Redcoats Are Coming!

Module 4: Myth Making

In this second module, *Extreme Settings*, we will examine how people react to extreme environments. Students will analyze what makes landscapes like mountains challenging. We will ask the question: *How do humans survive against the odds?*

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS AND STORIES:

### Novel

- *Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen

### Short Story

- "All Summer in a Day," Ray Bradbury

### Scientific Account

- *Mountains*, Seymour Simon
- *SAS Survival Handbook: The Ultimate Guide to Surviving Anywhere*, John "Lofty" Wiseman

### Poems

- "Dust of Snow," Robert Frost
- "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," Robert Frost

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE IMAGES OF THIS ARCHITECTURE:

- *Fallingwater*, Frank Lloyd Wright

## OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How does the setting affect the characters or speakers in the text?
- What makes a mountainous environment extreme?
- How does setting influence character and plot development?
- How does a challenging setting or physical environment change a person?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your fourth-grade student reads, 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:

- *Hurricanes*, Seymour Simon
- *Guts: The True Stories Behind Hatchet and the Brian Books*, Gary Paulsen
- *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with The Great Survivor B95*, Phillip Hoose
- *A Girl Named Disaster*, Nancy Farmer
- *The Sign of the Beaver*, Jean Craighead George
- *Navigating Early*, Clare Vanderpool
- *The River*, Gary Paulsen
- *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O'Dell
- *Brian's Return*, Gary Paulsen
- *Brian's Winter*, Gary Paulsen
- *Brian's Hunt*, Gary Paulsen
- *A Time of Wonder*, Robert McCloskey
- *My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George

## IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS:

Visit the library or go online at home. Search for some images of extreme environments, such as the Canadian wilderness, Mono Lake, Octopus Springs, Killington (Vermont), Grenada, Southern Belize, or Iceland.

- *What do you notice and wonder about this region?*
- *What do you think life is like there?*