

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 4 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 Great Heart

Module 2: Extreme Settings

Module 3: The Redcoats Are Coming!

Module 4: Myth Making

In the fourth module, *Myth Making*, we will read and analyze myths from the ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as Native American tribes, to learn the purpose and importance of these stories in their cultures. Students will also enjoy reading *Walk Two Moons*, a beautiful tapestry of stories within stories to reveal a modern-day myth that captures a snapshot of our human experience. We will ask the question: *What can we learn from myths and stories?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Novel (Literary)

- *Walk Two Moons*, Sharon Creech

Drama (Literary)

- *Pushing Up the Sky: Native American Plays for Children*, Joseph Bruchac

Historical Account (Informational)

- *Understanding Greek Myths*, Natalie Hyde

Myths (Literary)

- *Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words & Wisdom from Greek & Roman Mythology*, Lise Lunge-Larsen

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Pandora*, Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- *Pandora*, Odilon Redon

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS GRAPHIC:

- “The Raven Steals the Light,” Bill Reid and Robert Bringhurst

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS MYTH:

- “When Raven Soared,” Leigh Anderson

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE POEMS:

- “The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls,” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- “the little horse is newLY,” e.e. cummings

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS SCULPTURE:

- *Winged Victory of Samothrace*

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Aerial Acropolis focusing on Parthenon house of goddess Athena/Acropolis, Athens, Greece”
- “Secrets of the Parthenon,” PBS Nova
- “The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls”
- “Samothrace Reconstruction: Hieron to Nike”

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THIS PHOTOGRAPH:

- *Parthenon*, Britannica

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What are myths, and why do people create them?
- What do myths and stories from different cultures have in common?
- How are Sal’s and Phoebe’s stories connected in *Walk Two Moons*?
- What does Sal learn in *Walk Two Moons*?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 4 Student reads, ask:

- How does this text build your knowledge of myths and stories? Share what you know about myths and stories.

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters, & Mortals*, Donna Jo Napoli
- *Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, and Monsters*, Donna Jo Napoli
- *Pegasus*, Marianne Mayer
- *Cupid and Psyche*, M. Charlotte Craft
- *A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories*, Rudyard Kipling and Christopher Corr
- *Usborne Greek Myths*, Heather Amery
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan
- *Fables*, Arnold Lobel
- *The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend*, Li Jian
- *Classic Myths to Read Aloud: The Great Stories of Greek and Roman Mythology*, William F. Russell

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT MYTHS AND STORIES:

- Ask your Grade 4 student to explain what makes a myth, a myth.
- Retell a myth and explain its purpose.
- Explain why people first created myths.
- Explain the two main types of myths.
- Discuss what the ancient Greeks learned from myths.
- Summarize what was happening in the books read in class.
- Create a comic strip story map to record in pictures what is happening in each story that is read in class. Discuss with your child each night.
- Practice reading aloud the fluency passages assigned for homework.
- Discuss the characters in *Walk Two Moons*. Who are they? Why are they important to the story?
- Discuss the trip Salamanca takes with her grandparents. Ask where they traveled to each day and look these places up together in books and on the internet.
- Write your own family myth and share it with others.

