
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 5 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: Cultures in Conflict

Module 2: Word Play

Module 3: A War Between Us

Module 4: Breaking Barriers

In the third module, *A War Between Us*, students are exposed to the many ways in which war impacts people and the many consequences of war. We will read firsthand accounts and historical fiction to answer the question: How did the Civil War impact people?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Articles

- “Hospitals and Medical Knowledge,” *Civil War Preservation Trust*
- “Amputation,” *Civil War Preservation Trust*

Historical Account

- *The Boys’ War*, Jim Murphy

Novel

- *The River Between Us*, Richard Peck

Poetry

- “The Women Who Went to the Field,” Clara Barton

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS:

- Lincoln at Antietam, Alexander Gardner

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS

- *The Civil War, Episode 1: “The Cause,”* Ken Burns
- “America Divided,” History.com
- “What Caused the Civil War,” Virginia Historical Society
- “Ford Model T–100 Years Later,” CarDataVideo

OUR CLASS WILL VISIT THESE WEB PAGES:

- “Compare Two Worlds: North vs. South 1861,” Scholastic.com
- “Slavery,” Scholastic.com

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What factors led to the start of the Civil War?
- How did the Civil War impact boy soldiers?
- How did the Civil War impact girls and women?
- How did the Civil War impact free people of color in the South?
- How did the Civil War impact the Pruitt family from the historical-fiction novel *The River Between Us*?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 5 student reads, ask:

- *What is the essential meaning, or most important message, in this book?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Civil War Stories*, Ambrose Bierce
- *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer*, James Swanson
- *Across Five Aprils*, Irene Hunt
- *With Every Drop of Blood*, James Collier
- *How I Found the Strong*, Margaret McMullan
- *Iron Thunder*, Avi
- *Red Moon at Sharpsburg*, Rosemary Wells
- *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, Rodman Phillbrick
- *Soldier’s Heart*, Gary Paulsen

- *Elijah of Bruvton*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- *On Enemy Soil: The Journal of James Edmund Pease, a Civil War Union Soldier*, Jim Murphy

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR:

Encourage your Grade 5 student to think about both the negative and positive impacts of war as they read, as war changes people in many ways and teaches many lessons. Additionally, invite your Grade 5 student to think about how someone's point of view influences how they describe and react to an event like war.