
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 5 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: Cultures in Conflict

Module 2: Word Play

Module 3: A War Between Us

Module 4: Breaking Barriers

In the fourth module, *Breaking Barriers*, students are exposed to the power that sports have to affect how people view each other, to create opportunities for people, and to help people overcome and challenge barriers. Students will read and research a variety of informational texts about individual athletes, coaches, teams, and organizations to answer the question: How can sports influence individuals and societies?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS BOOK:

Literary Nonfiction (Informational)

- *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Kadir Nelson

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS ARTWORK:

- *Joie de Vivre*, Mark di Suvero
- *The Fall of Icarus*, Henri Matisse

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- “Afghan Sprinter Tahmina Kohistani Shows What’s Possible for Muslim Women,” Mike Wise
- “Finding Common Ground on the Soccer Field,” Todd Tuell
- “Guardians of the Game,” Todd Tuell
- “Refugees Find Hope, Film Deal on Soccer Field,” Kathy Lohr
- “Street Soccer,” Connie Colón

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS SHORT STORY:

- “Raymond’s Run,” Toni Cade Bambara

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “Always #LikeAGirl,” Always
- “Jackie Robinson,” History.com
- “Nelson Mandela Speech that changed the world,” 2000 Laureus World Sports Awards

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How can sports affect the way we view others?
- How can sports create opportunities for change?
- How can people challenge or overcome barriers through sports?
- How can sports influence individuals and societies?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 5 student reads, ask:

- How does this text build your knowledge of breaking barriers or the power of sports? Share what you know about breaking barriers or the power of sports.

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *America’s Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle*, David Adler
- *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin*, Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet
- *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille*, Jen Bryant
- *Who Was Roberto Clemente?* James Buckley, Jr.
- *The Bat Boy and His Violin*, Gavin Curtis
- *Babe Didrikson Zaharias: Making of a Champion*, Russell Freedman
- *Mr. Matisse and His Cutouts*, Annemarie van Haeringen
- *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World’s Fastest Woman*, Kathleen Krull
- *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*, Bette Bao Lord
- *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom*, Sue Macy
- *America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories*, Ann Mazer
- *Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive*, Carole Boston Weatherford
- *Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*, Jonah Winter

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT THE POWER OF SPORT:

Encourage your Grade 5 student to think about the ways that sports can be used to bring people together, to change people's opinions, and to give people hope. Additionally, invite your Grade 5 student to reflect on his or her own experiences with sports—either watching or playing—and consider how sports have influenced them or have helped them, or someone they know, to overcome a barrier.

