
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY SIXTH GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 1?

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: Resilience in the Great Depression

Module 2: A Hero's Journey

Module 3: Narrating the Unknown: Jamestown

Module 4: Courage in Crisis

In this first module, *Resilience in the Great Depression*, we will study one of the worst economic situations in American history, the Great Depression. We will explore the hardships families faced and the triumphs they endured during the Great Depression.

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Novels

- *Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Out of the Dust*, Karen Hesse

Historical Account

- "The Drought," PBS American Experience
- "Hooverilles," History.com
- "Hoover's Prodigal Children: Hungry Times on Mean Streets," Errol Lincoln Uys

Poetry

- "Mother to Son," Langston Hughes

Music

- "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," Duke Ellington and Irving Mills

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE WORKS OF ART:

Photography

- *Kentucky Flood*, Margaret Bourke-White
- *Migrant Mother*, Dorothea Lange

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- “1930s GM Sit-Down Strike,” History.com
- “Black Blizzard,” History.com
- “Migrant Mother Photo,” History.com

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What makes Bud a survivor?
- What hardships did people face during the Great Depression?
- How is Bud transformed by his journey?
- What sustained people’s spirits during the Great Depression?
- How does hardship alter the characters’ perspectives in *Out of the Dust*?
- What makes the characters in *Out of the Dust* survivors?
- How can enduring tremendous hardship contribute to personal transformation?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your sixth grade student reads, ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Children of the Depression*, Russell Freedman
- *On the Blue Comet*, Rosemary Wells
- *Long Way from Chicago: A Novel in Stories*, Richard Peck
- *Moon Over Manifest*, Clare Vanderpool
- *My Side of the Mountain*, Jean Craighead George
- *Sunder*, Williams H. Armstrong
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, Mildred Taylor
- *No Promises in the Wind*, Irene Hunt

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE GREAT DEPRESSION:

Visit a local history museum. Ask if there are any exhibits or artifacts from the Great Depression. As you view them with your learner, ask:

- *What makes someone a survivor?*
- *What do you see here that shows the hardships people faced during the Great Depression?*
- *How can enduring hardship change us?*