
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY SIXTH-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 literature 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 second module, *A Hero's Journey*, we will study what makes a hero. Is it simply courage, or something more? What traits do all of us share with the most famous heroes in literature?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Myth

- *The Odyssey*, Gillian Cross and Neil Packer
- *Ramayana: Divine Loophole*, Sanjay Patel

Articles

- "The Hero's Journey Outline," Christopher Vogler
- "A Practical Guide to Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*," Christopher Vogler

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- "The Mythology of Star Wars," Bill Moyers and George Lucas
- "Sanjay's Super Team," Sanjay Patel
- "What Makes a Hero?" Matthew Winkler

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How does *Ramayana: Divine Loophole* exhibit the genre expectations of the monomyth, a story of an extraordinary, but flawed individual who struggles, changes, and impacts the world for good)?
- How does *The Odyssey* exhibit the genre expectations of the monomyth?
- How do translations of *The Odyssey* and *Ramayana* expand our understanding of these texts?
- How does the monomyth genre persist in and influence the stories we tell?
- What is the significance and power of the hero's journey?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your sixth-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:

- *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Book 1*, Rick Riordan
- *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel
- *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad*, Rosemary Sutcliff
- *Sita's Ramayana*, Samhita Arni
- *The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug for Troy*, Laura Amy Schlitz and Robert Byrd
- *The Iliad*, Homer (Retold by Gillian Cross)
- *The Greek Gods*, Bernard Evslin
- *The Odyssey*, Geraldine McCaughrean and Emma Chichester Clark

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT THE HERO'S JOURNEY:

As you watch movies together, ask:

- *Who was the hero?*
- *What made the hero extraordinary?*
- *What were the hero's flaws?*
- *Describe the hero's struggle.*
- *How did the hero change?*
- *How did the hero impact others or bring about change?*