

Wit & Wisdom Parent Tip Sheet

WHAT IS MY GRADE 6 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 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

Module 4: Courage in Crisis

In the third module, *Narrating the Unknown*, students work across multiple texts and genres to construct a complex picture of life and struggle in Jamestown, assessing the forces—both internal and external—that brought the near demise of the colony. We will ask the question: *How did the social and environmental challenges in the unknown world of Jamestown shape its development and decline?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Historical Fiction Novel (Literary)

- *Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607*, Elisa Carbone

Scientific Account (Informational)

- *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*, Sally Walker

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Nighthawks*, Edward Hopper
- *The Lighthouse at Two Lights*, Edward Hopper
- *Lighthouse Hill*, Edward Hopper

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS ARTICLE:

- “Rethinking Jamestown,” Jeffery Sheler

OUR CLASS WILL READ AND LISTEN TO THIS SPEECH:

- “Address to Captain John Smith,” Chief Powhatan

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THIS VIDEO:

- “Innovation in Plain Sight,” Amy Herman

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How do the settlers respond to the challenges of their journey to the unknown?
- Who has the greatest impact on Samuel’s development during his time in Jamestown?
- How do the settlers’ and the Powhatans’ responses to the challenges of Jamestown impact its development and decline?
- How does the art and science of observation contribute to a more complete narrative of Jamestown’s development and decline?
- How did the social and environmental factors in the unknown world of Jamestown shape its development and decline?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 6 student reads, ask:

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

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions and Debates*, Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw
- *The Sign of the Beaver*, Elizabeth George Speare
- *The Lost Colony of Roanoke*, Jean Fritz
- *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*, Candace Fleming
- *Emperor’s Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China*, Jane O’Connor

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT EVENTS OF THE PAST:

Search together online for “history mysteries” such as Roanoke Settlement, Stonehenge, or Lost City of Atlantis. Ask:

- *What happened?*
- *What are some ways historians and writers make sense of the past?*