

Wit & Wisdom Parent Tip Sheet

WHAT IS MY GRADE 6 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 literature and nonfiction texts, we 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 fourth module, *Courage in Crisis*, students work across multiple texts to construct a complex understanding of what it means to endure hostile environments and respond heroically to positively impact others. We will ask the question: *How can the challenges of a hostile environment inspire heroism?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Historical Account (Informational)

- *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and the Endurance*, Jennifer Armstrong

Memoir

- *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*, Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS PAINTING:

- *Snow Storm: Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth*, Joseph Mallord William Turner

OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS ARTICLE:

- "The Golden Hoard: An Ancient Afghan Treasure Is Recovered," Rachel Galvin

OUR CLASS WILL ANALYZE THIS ARTIFACT:

- Bactrian Gold Crown

OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THESE VIDEOS:

- *Lost Treasures of Afghanistan*, National Geographic
- “Malala Yousafzai Nobel Peace Prize Speech,” Malala Fund

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How do Shackleton and his crew respond to the hostile environment of Antarctica?
- How does Armstrong’s portrayal of Shackleton and his crew develop the concept of heroism?
- How do Malala and her community respond to the hostile environment in Pakistan?
- How does Yousafzai’s and McCormick’s portrayal of Malala develop the concept of heroism?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 6 student reads, ask:

- *How does this text build your knowledge of heroism? Share what you know about responding to the challenges of hostile environments.*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart*, Candace Fleming
- *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, Laura Hillenbrand
- *Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert*, Marc Aronson
- *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, Russell Freedman
- *Shackleton’s Stowaway*, Victoria McKernan
- *Swiss Family Robinson*, Johann David Wyss
- *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, Jules Verne
- *Shipwrecked: Adventures of a Japanese Boy*, Rhonda Blumberg
- *Helen’s Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller’s Teacher*, Marfe Ferguson Delano
- *Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot,”* Michael O’Tunnell

IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT EVENTS OF THE PAST:

Search together online for information about other people who have faced the challenges of a hostile environment and responded with heroic action that positively impacted others:

- *What happened?*
- *How does this person build our knowledge of heroism?*