

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY SEVENTH-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 stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: Identity in the Middle Ages

Module 2: Americans All

Module 3: Language and Power

Module 4: Fever

In this second module, *Americans All*, students will explore how we react when faced with war. The World War II experiences of Japanese Americans and Native Americans show how the war impacted Americans in different ways. Students ask, *How did World War II affect individuals?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Memoir

- *Farewell to Manzanar*, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston

Novel

- *Code Talker*, Joseph Bruchac

Biography

- “Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.,” Alexis O’Neill

Historical Account

- “Navajo Code Talkers,” Harry Gardiner
- “Pearl Harbor and World War II,” Brandon Marie Miller and Mark Clemens
- “Relocation Camps,” Craig Blohm
- “World War II Internment of Japanese Americans,” Alan Taylor

Articles

- Pearl Harbor Headlines

Music

- “A Beautiful Dawn,” Radmilla Cody

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE WORKS OF ART:

Photography

- *Manzanar from Guard Tower*, Ansel Adams
- *Photograph of Flag Raising on Iwo Jima, 02/23/1945*, Joe Rosenthal
- *Roy Takeno, outside Free Press Office*, Ansel Adams
- *School Children*, Ansel Adams

Poster

- “Americans All”
- “United We Win”

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What does being Navajo mean to the protagonist of *Code Talker*?
- How does Ned’s Navajo identity provide strength during times of challenge?
- What did the Wakatsukis experience during World War II and how did it affect them?
- How did World War II affect individuals?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your seventh-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:

- *Eddie’s War*, Carol Fisher Saller
- *Weedflower*, Cynthia Kadohata
- *Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and the Librarian Who Made a Difference*, Joanne Oppenheim
- *Courage Has No Color*, Tanya Lee Stone
- *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of WWII*, J. Todd Moyer

- *Milkweed*, Jerry Spinelli
- *Hana's Suitcase: The Quest to Solve a Holocaust Mystery*, Karen Levine
- *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, Leon Leyson

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING WORLD WAR II

Watch movies together that depict the experiences of various Americans during World War II, such as *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Bridge on the River Kwai*, and *The Battle of Midway*. Ask:

- *What do the characters' identities mean to them during this difficult time?*
- *How did the characters' experiences during World War II affect them?*
- *How did World War II affect these individuals?*

