
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY EIGHT-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: The Poetics and Power of Storytelling

Module 2: The Great War

Module 3: What Is Love?

Module 4: Teens as Change Agents

In this second module, *The Great War*, students will study how writers and artists tell the story of World War I.

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Novel

- *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque (translator A.W. Wheen)

Poetry

- “Dulce et Decorum Est,” Wilfred Owen
- “In Flanders Fields,” John McCrae

Articles

- “The Peace President Goes to War,” Duane Damon
- “The War to End All Wars,” Shari Lyn Zuber
- “The Teenage Soldiers of World War One,” BBC Magazine
- “Fighting From the Trenches,” Kathryn M. Horst
- “The Forgotten Female Shell-Shock Victims of World War I,” Hannah Groch-Begley
- “Your Country Needs You: Why Did So Many Volunteer in 1914?,” Toby Thacker

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Gassed*, John Singer Sargent
- *Soldiers Playing Cards*, Fernand Léger

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:

- Excerpts from *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Lewis Milestone:
 - “The Charge”
 - “Before the Storm”
 - “Forgive me, Comrade”

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- Why did countries and individuals join World War I?
- How did the conditions on the front affect soldiers?
- How do texts inspired by World War I illuminate attitudes toward the war?
- What are the psychological effects of war?
- How does *All Quiet on the Western Front* illuminate the effects of World War I?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your eighth-grade student reads, ask:

- *What’s happening?*
- *What does a closer look at words reveal about this text’s deeper meaning?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *War Horse*, Michael Morpurgo
- *Private Peaceful*, Michael Morpurgo
- *The Family Romanov*, Candace Fleming
- *World War I: The Cause for War*, Natalie Hyde
- *The War to End All Wars*, Russell Freedman
- *The Guns of August*, Barbara Tuchman
- *The Yanks Are Coming*, Albert Marrin
- *Soldier Dog*, Sam Angus

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING WORLD WAR I:

Watch a movie together that tells the story of World War I, such as *Sergeant York*. Ask:

- How did the filmmaker tell the story of World War I?
- How does this film compare to the novel you read in class?
- How does this film compare to the art you examined?

