

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 8 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 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 the fourth module, *Teens as Change Agents*, students examine the story of Claudette Colvin's role in the Civil Rights Movement, deepening their knowledge of American history and their understanding of how people, including teens, challenge injustice and create change. Through their reading and independent research, students ask: *How do people effect social change?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Historical Account (Informational)

- *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, Phillip Hoose

Our class will watch this video:

- "Claudette Colvin: The Original Rosa Parks"

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- "Social Media Sparked, Accelerated Egypt's Revolutionary Fire," Sam Gustin
- "Small Change," Malcolm Gladwell

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS SCULPTURE:

- *Ladder for Booker T. Washington*, Martin Puryear

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What motivated Claudette Colvin?
- What role did Claudette Colvin and others play in the Civil Rights Movement?
- What strategies do people use to effect social change?
- How do teens effect social change?
- What is the story of the year?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 8 student reads, ask:

How does this text build your knowledge of how people can effect social change? Share what you know about how people can respond to injustice in their daily lives and effect social change.

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March*, Cynthia Levinson
- *I Am Malala*, Malala Yousefzia
- *Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, Russell Freedman
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, William Kamkwamba
- *The Mysterious Benedict Society*, Trenton Lee Stewart
- *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio
- *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo*, Zlata Filipovic
- *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics (Young Readers Edition)*, Daniel James Brown
- *A Friend Called Anne*, Jacqueline Van Maarsen
- *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne Frank
- *Endangered*, Eliot Schrefer
- *Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists*, Ellen Levine
- *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*, Elspeth Leacock, Susan Buckley, and Lynda Blackmon Lowery
- *Ashes of Roses*, MJ Auch
- *Be a Changemaker: How to Start Something that Matters*, Laurie Ann Thompson
- *We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History*, Phillip Hoose

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING TEENS AS CHANGE AGENTS:

Ask:

- What motivates people to create social change?
- How do people define injustice in their specific situation?
- How do different people respond to injustice and effect social change?
- Why are teens important change agents?