
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY GRADE 8 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 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 third module, *What Is Love?*, students examine a question that has vexed humans—and the world’s most renowned literary authors—for generations: What is love?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Novel (Literary)

- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, William Shakespeare

Short Stories

- “EPICAC,” Kurt Vonnegut

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE ARTICLES:

- “What is Love? Five Theories on the Greatest Emotion of All,” Jim Al-Khalili, et al
- “In the Brain, Romantic Love Is Basically an Addiction,” Helen Fisher

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Birthday*, Marc Chagall
- *Arnolfini Wedding Portrait*, Jan Van Eyck

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How do the characters in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* understand love?
- What defines the experience of love?
- What makes love complicated?
- Is love real in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?
- Is love in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* a result of agency or fate?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 8 student reads, ask:

- What is the essential meaning, or most important message, in this text?
- What are the themes of this text?
- *Who Was William Shakespeare?*, Celeste Mannis
- *Stargirl*, Jerry Spinelli
- *King of Shadows*, Susan Cooper
- *Shakespeare's Stories for Young Readers*, E. Nesbit

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Tuck Everlasting*, Natalie Babbitt
- *Emma*, Jane Austen
- *Who Was William Shakespeare?*, Celeste Mannis

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING SHAKESPEARE AND LOVE STORIES:

Ask:

- Why do you think people tell and listen to/watch love stories?
- What can people learn about social or cultural norms from reading or viewing love stories?