



**G R E A T  
M I N D S**

TM

# **WIT & WISDOM<sup>®</sup>**

Curiosity, Inquiry, Knowledge

The Indiana Academic  
Standards for English/  
Language Arts Correlation to  
*Wit & Wisdom*

**GRADE 8** | April 2023



## ABOUT *WIT & WISDOM*

*Wit & Wisdom*® is a Kindergarten through Grade 8 English language arts (ELA) curriculum created by Great Minds. Founded in 2007, Great Minds PBC has evolved from an education advocacy start-up to a respected curriculum developer providing the highest quality materials and professional development to schools and districts nationwide. In pursuit of its goal to raise expectations for every student, Great Minds enlists educators to write curricula that use proven learning strategies to reward students' natural curiosity, build knowledge, and cultivate lifelong critical-thinking skills. Writing teams collaborate to ensure a consistent structure and vision for learning within and across all grade levels.

With *Wit & Wisdom*, every text a student explores is authentic and of the highest quality. Students use these texts at every turn—to learn, and eventually master, essential reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary skills. All students read and discuss grade-level texts, and the curriculum includes suggestions for supporting this learning at key moments in the lessons.

*Wit & Wisdom* is composed of four modules per grade level. Each artfully explores a specific topic to develop depth of understanding and inspire curiosity. Modules build students' knowledge of important topics in the arts, science, and social studies through the use of diverse and culturally relevant texts. The core of each module is a selection of literary works, informational texts, and visual art. Modules are made up of approximately 30 lessons that are covered in six to eight weeks. All modules integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language instruction.

*Wit & Wisdom* was intentionally designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program therefore the majority of the foundational skills standards will fall into this category. With strategic placement of supplemental materials, students can be successful in achieving the proficiencies of the The Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts while benefiting from the rich texts and knowledge building of *Wit & Wisdom*. For more information on *Wit & Wisdom*'s alignment to the science of reading, please see [The Science of Reading and \*Wit & Wisdom\*](#) and [Examining Scarborough's Rope: Background Knowledge](#). A detailed analysis of the alignment between the 2020 The Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and *Wit & Wisdom* is provided in the table on the pages that follow this introduction.

An adoption of *Wit & Wisdom* brings to your classroom:

#### HIGH RATINGS

The independent, nonprofit reviewer EdReports.org gives *Wit & Wisdom* top ratings for text quality, building knowledge, and usability. *Wit & Wisdom* received a Tier 1 designation for all grades, Kindergarten through Grade 8, from the Louisiana Department of Education.

#### PROVEN RESULTS

Schools and districts nationwide are experiencing increased student engagement and growth with *Wit & Wisdom*. See their stories and data at <https://greatminds.org/research>. Data stories from districts can be found at <https://greatminds.org/case-studies>. Finally, we are proud to share *The Knowledge Map Project*, an initiative of the Institute of Educational Policy at Johns Hopkins University and Chiefs for Change. This study provided *Wit & Wisdom* with high marks, saying it contains “high-quality texts with extensive topical coverage,” and “makes especially good use of the visual arts.” Read more at <https://edpolicy.education.jhu.edu/knowledge-map/>.

#### ONGOING SUPPORT

Great Minds offers *Wit & Wisdom* curriculum-specific professional development that values educators’ experiences and unique contexts. Our professional development helps teachers build their content knowledge and instructional practices to guide them in how to develop habits of inquiry in their students through rich experiences with the curriculum’s complex texts. Ongoing support includes:

##### **Introducing *Wit & Wisdom***

- *Wit & Wisdom* Blog and Online Resources Implementation Guide
- Module Zero (GK–2, G3–5, G6–8)
- *Wit & Wisdom* Preparation Protocols
- On-Demand Professional Development and Implementation Support Videos

##### **Extending *Wit & Wisdom***

- Family Tip Sheets
- Multilingual Glossary
- Volume of Reading text list
- *Wit & Wisdom* assessment resources (Standards Trackers and Question Sets)
- The Art of *Wit & Wisdom* (lessons and vocabulary relating to the curriculum’s rich artwork)

## Reading Comprehension

**Learning Outcome: Students analyze the author's technique, structure, main ideas, purpose, and perspective in grade-level fiction and nonfiction text, using textual evidence to support analysis.**

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>8.RC.1</b></p> <p>Analyze what a text says explicitly as well as draw inferences through strong and supportive textual evidence. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34</p>
<p><b>8.RC.2</b></p> <p>Analyze the development of a theme or central idea over the course of a work of literature, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide a detailed summary that supports the analysis. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 13DD, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29, 29DD, 30</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36</p>
<p><b>8.RC.3</b></p> <p>Compare and contrast the structure of two or more related works of literature (e.g., similar topic or theme), and analyze and evaluate how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 19, 26</p>
<p><b>8.RC.4</b></p> <p>Analyze the development of a central idea over the course of a text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide a detailed, objective summary of the text.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 11, 12, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 14, 31, 32, 34</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 13, 15, 16, 17,</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.RC.5</b> Determine an author’s perspective or purpose in a text, and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 24 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 12, 14 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24</p>
<p><b>8.RC.6</b> Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 13, 14, 15, 16 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 20, 23</p>
<p><b>8.RC.7</b> Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 5, 20, 23, 24</p>
<p><b>8.RC.8</b> Use context to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 4DD, 11DD, 12, 12DD, 13DD, 15, 23, 27DD, 32DD, 33DD Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 2DD, 3, 4, 6, 6DD, 7DD, 8, 8DD, 9, 10, 10DD, 11DD, 12, 12DD, 13, 17, 18, 18DD, 19, 20, 22, 22DD, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 2, 2DD, 3, 4, 6DD, 7, 9, 10, 10DD, 14, 14DD, 15DD, 18DD, 19DD, 20, 20DD, 21, 21DD, 22, 23, 24DD, 30DD, 33DD Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3DD, 4, 5, 7, 10, 10DD, 13, 15, 15DD, 17, 17DD, 19, 19DD, 20DD, 21, 28DD, 29DD</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.RC.9</b> Distinguish among the connotations of words with similar denotations.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15DD, 24DD Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 2DD, 4DD, 15, 19, 30DD, 31, 32 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 2DD, 7DD, 9DD, 10, 14, 15DD, 21 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 15DD, 21</p>
<p><b>8.RC.10</b> Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., precede, recede, secede).</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 3DD, 4DD, 12DD, 13DD Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 10DD, 20DD, 22DD, 29DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 7DD, 10DD, 12DD, 14DD, 18DD, 20DD, 21DD, 22DD, 30DD Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1, 10, 17, 6DD, 17DD, 28DD, 29DD, 30DD, 31DD, 32DD</p>
<p><b>8.RC.11</b> Interpret figures of speech (e.g., verbal irony, puns) in context.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 4, 8DD, 21DD Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 9DD, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 29 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 4DD, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 20DD, 22, 28, 29, 30 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 18, 20, 22, 5DD, 6DD, 11DD</p>

## Writing

**Learning Outcome: Students compose writing and presentations for various genres which demonstrate a command of English grammar and usage through the writing and research processes.**

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.1</b> Write arguments in a variety of forms that:</p>	<p>See 8.W.1a-e below.</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.1a</b> Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35</p>
<p><b>8.W.1b</b> Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 26, 31, 34, 35</p>
<p><b>8.W.1c</b> Use effective transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 6, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 31, 32, 35</p>
<p><b>8.W.1d</b> Establish and maintain a consistent style and tone appropriate for the purpose and audience.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 29, 30, 31</p>
<p><b>8.W.1e</b> Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the argument presented. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 13, 30, 31, 35</p>
<p><b>8.W.2</b> Write informative compositions in a variety of forms that:</p>	<p>See 8.W.2a-f below.</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.2a</b></p> <p>Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 5, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18, 21, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 16, 27</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 12</p>
<p><b>8.W.2b</b></p> <p>Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from various sources and texts.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 5</p>
<p><b>8.W.2c</b></p> <p>Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 13, 15, 36, 37</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 16, 27</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 12</p>
<p><b>8.W.2d</b></p> <p>Choose language and content-specific vocabulary that express ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.</p>	<p>Wit &amp; Wisdom addresses recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy in Grade 7. The following lessons address choosing language and content-specific vocabulary that express ideas precisely and concisely.</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 28</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 5, 25, 26</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 16, 27</p>
<p><b>8.W.2e</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain a style appropriate for the purpose and audience.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 23, 26</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 16</p>



Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.2f</b> Provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the information or explanation presented. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 25, 26, 32, 36, 37 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 12</p>
<p><b>8.W.3</b> Write narrative compositions in a variety of forms that:</p>	<p>See 8.W.3a-e below.</p>
<p><b>8.W.3a</b> Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 12, 13, 14, 17, 29 Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 16</p>
<p><b>8.W.3b</b> Organize an event sequence (e.g., conflict, climax, resolution) that unfolds naturally and logically, using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.</p>	<p>Wit &amp; Wisdom addresses using transitions in narrative compositions in Grade 7. The following lessons address organizing an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically. Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 17</p>
<p><b>8.W.3c</b> Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 29, 31 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 14, 16</p>
<p><b>8.W.3d</b> Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 29, 31 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 3, 14, 16</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.3e</b> Provide an ending that follows and reflects on the narrated experiences or events. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 12, 13, 14, 17, 29</p>
<p><b>8.W.4</b> Apply the writing process to all formal writing including but not limited to argumentative, informative, and narrative:</p>	<p>See 8.W.4a-b below.</p>
<p><b>8.W.4a</b> Plan and develop, draft, and revise writing using appropriate reference materials. Rewrite, try a new approach, and edit to produce and strengthen writing that is clear and coherent with some guidance and support from peers and adults.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 11, 17, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 8, 34, 37DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 10, 24, 26, 33, 35, 36, 35DD, 36DD Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 16, 26, 27, 31</p>
<p><b>8.W.4b</b> Use technology to interact and collaborate with others to generate, produce, and publish writing and present information and ideas efficiently.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 22 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 32, 33</p>
<p><b>8.W.5</b> Conduct research assignments and tasks to build knowledge about the research process and the topic under study.</p>	<p>See 8.W.5a-f below.</p>
<p><b>8.W.5a</b> Formulate a research question.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 2, 18</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.5b</b> Gather relevant information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively, and annotate sources.</p>	<p>Supplemental material is necessary to address annotating research sources. The following lessons address gathering relevant information from multiple sources and using search terms effectively. Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 6, 7, 13, 15</p>
<p><b>8.W.5c</b> Assess the credibility and accuracy of each source.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 6, 7, 13, 15</p>
<p><b>8.W.5d</b> Quote or paraphrase the information and conclusions of others.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 15, 18</p>
<p><b>8.W.5e</b> Avoid plagiarism and follow a standard format for citation.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 8 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3, 5, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33</p>
<p><b>8.W.5f</b> Present information, choosing from a variety of formats. (E)</p>	<p>Supplemental material is necessary to address choosing from a variety of formats. The following lessons address presenting information. Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31</p>
<p><b>8.W.6</b> Demonstrate command of English grammar and usage, focusing on:</p>	<p>See 8.W.6a-below.</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.W.6a</b> Verbs – Explaining the function of verbals (e.g., gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences; forming and using active and passive voice; recognizing and correcting inappropriate shifts in verb voice. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 8DD, 10, 11 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 14DD, 15DD, 16, 16DD, 21DD, 23DD, 24DD, 25, 25DD, 26, 26DD, 32, 37, 37DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 11DD, 13DD, 16, 16DD, 17DD, 23DD, 25DD, 26DD, 27, 27DD, 29DD, 31, 36DD Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1DD, 2DD, 4DD, 7DD, 8, 8DD, 13DD, 14DD, 16, 16DD, 21DD, 22DD, 23, 23DD, 24DD, 26DD, 27DD</p>
<p><b>8.W.7</b> Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, focusing on:</p>	<p>See 8.W.7a-below.</p>
<p><b>8.W.7a</b> Punctuation – Using punctuation (e.g., comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause, break, or omission. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 18DD, 19DD, 20DD, 22DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1DD, 3DD, 5, 5DD, 35DD, 36</p>

## Communication and Collaboration

Students actively engage in listening, discussing, and presenting ideas justified by sound reasoning and textual evidence.

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.CC.1</b> Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (e.g., one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on grade-appropriate topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing personal ideas clearly. (E)</p>	

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.CC.2</b> Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. (E)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15, 20, 27, 29</p>
<p><b>8.CC.3</b> Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify personal views in reference to the evidence presented.</p>	<p><i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> addresses this standard in Grade 7. Grade 7, Module 1, Lesson 7 Grade 7, Module 2, Lesson 30 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 29, 37 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 31</p>
<p><b>8.CC.4</b> Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 4, 9, 18, 19 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 33, 34 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 18 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 33</p>
<p><b>8.CC.5</b> Delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning and relevance and sufficiency of the evidence, and identifying when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 6, 9, 11, 17, 29, 32, 34</p>

Indiana Standards	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
<p><b>8.CC.6</b> Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 17 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32</p>
<p><b>8.CC.7</b> Develop engaging presentations that integrate multimedia components and visual displays to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 28 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 10, 1 29, 30, 31, 32</p>
<p><b>8.CC.8</b> Identify and analyze persuasive and propaganda techniques used in visual and verbal messages by electronic, print, and mass media, and identify false or misleading information. (E)</p>	<p>Supplemental material is necessary to address this standard thoroughly. Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 4</p>