



Tips for Families

Level 1 Module 1 | A World of Books



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 1 module 1. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 1 module 1, *A World of Books*, students explore the power of books and libraries. They answer the module's Essential Question: Why are books important?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- When I say the word *library*, what do you think of?
- Do you have a favorite book? Why is it your favorite?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In level 1 module 1, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán,"* Jo Ellen Bogart and Sydney Smith
- *That Book Woman*, Heather Henson and David Small
- *Tomás and the Library Lady*, Pat Mora and Raul Colón
- *Ready to Fly: How Sylvia Townsend Became the Bookmobile Ballerina*, Lea Lyon, A. LaFaye, and Jessica Gibson
- *The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come*, Sue Macy and Stacy Innerst

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *A World of Books*, students plan, organize, and write stories about characters who visit libraries and learn something new from books.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Set up a display for your student's work. Invite your student to say aloud stories, lists, poems, or letters that you can write and reread together.

What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- access
- bookmobile
- borrow
- collect
- curious
- imaginary
- knowledge
- lesson
- librarian
- library
- manuscript
- monk
- packhorse librarian
- precious
- pursuit
- scholar
- treasure

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Talk about what the words mean. Challenge each other to use the words in conversation.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

Conversation helps students develop their language skills. Engage in back-and-forth discussions about topics of interest to you and your student.

Visit the local library together. Explore on your own or check your library's website for programs for students and families.

Plan a reading activity. Use a book to learn a new skill or start a book club with other students and their families or caregivers.



Tips for Families

Level 1 Module 2 | Creature Features



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 1 module 2. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 1 module 2, *Creature Features*, students learn about animals and the scientists who study them. They answer the module's Essential Question: What do people learn by studying animals?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What is your favorite animal? Why is this your favorite animal?
- Why is studying animals interesting?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In level 1 module 2, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Seven Blind Mice*, Ed Young
- *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?*, Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
- *Dear Treefrog*, Joyce Sidman and Diana Sudyka
- *Feathers: Not Just for Flying*, Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannen
- *Me...Jane*, Patrick McDonnell
- *Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner*, Janice N. Harrington and Theodore Taylor III

Search together online or at the library for more information about animals, scientists, or another topic of interest.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *Creature Features*, students conduct research to write informative paragraphs about animals.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Encourage your student to observe nature and keep notes of their observations in a journal. Invite your student to read aloud their writing.

What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- camouflage
- creature
- discover
- environment
- feature
- habitat
- observe
- predator
- prey
- protect
- scientist
- search
- study
- surroundings
- survive
- unique

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. While reading, talk about words that describe animals and their features.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Visit a local zoo or pet store with your student. Observe animals that use their features to move, eat, or hide.

Invite your student to select an animal to research. Visit the library or look online to learn how this animal uses its features to survive.



Tips for Families

Level 1 Module 3 | Wind Power



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 1 module 3. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 1 module 3, *Wind Power*, students learn about the wind and its impact on our lives. They answer the module's Essential Question: How is the wind powerful?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- When have you experienced the wind? Describe what you remember about that time.
- What did you learn about the wind that you didn't know before?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In level 1 module 3, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Wild Is the Wind*, Grahame Baker-Smith
- *Feel the Wind*, Arthur Dorros
- *Gilberto and the Wind*, Marie Hall Ets
- *Brave Irene*, William Steig
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, William Kamkwamba, Bryan Mealer, and Elizabeth Zunon
- *Energy Island: How One Community Harnessed the Wind and Changed Their World*, Allan Drummond

Talk with your student about what they learned about the wind from these books. Ask your student to connect events and situations in the books with their own experiences.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *Wind Power*, students plan, organize, and write opinion paragraphs about the wind and its effects.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Write about a shared memory of a windy day. Invite your student to dictate, and then read back to them what you have written.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- breeze
- direction
- electricity
- energy
- gale
- gentle
- gust
- harness
- renewable
- sail
- strength
- turbine
- wild
- wind
- windmill

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Invite your student to act out the meaning of some words.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Plan an activity that requires the wind (e.g., flying a kite, sailing, blowing bubbles). Ask your student to describe how the wind affects this activity.

View videos online of a weather event or special weather report. Watch the weather report on your local news with your student.





Tips for Families

Level 1 Module 4 | World Tales



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 1 module 4. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 1 module 4, *World Tales*, students explore stories from diverse cultures and look closely at character experiences. They answer the module's Essential Question: How are stories similar around the world?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- What have stories taught you about the world?
- What is your favorite story? Why is this story your favorite?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and reading skills. In level 1 module 4, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Cinderella*, Charles Perrault and Marcia Brown
- *Beginner's World Atlas*, Fifth Edition, National Geographic Kids
- *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China*, Ed Young
- *The Girl and the Wolf*, Katherena Vermette and Julie Flett
- *The Lizard and the Sun*, Alma Flor Ada and Felipe Dávalos

Discuss the different types of characters in stories that you read together. Act out scenes or stories with your student.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing stories, opinion paragraphs, and informative paragraphs. In this final module, students practice all three of the year's writing types. They show their learning by writing stories and opinion and informative paragraphs.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Keep a list of favorite characters. Ask your student to write a letter to a favorite character.



What vocabulary is my student learning?

The more vocabulary students know, the more successfully they can read, write, and speak.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- adventure
- anxious
- assist
- calm
- clever
- diversity
- helper
- hero
- inspire
- trait
- villain

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. When reading, point out and talk about interesting words that describe characters.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, speak and read with your student in your home language. This practice can help them develop strong literacy skills.

Read a favorite story. Discuss the hero, villain, and helper in this story. Describe actions and qualities that make them a hero, villain, or helper.

Invite your student to share a country or part of the world that they would like to learn more about. Visit a library or website to learn more about the land and cultural features of the place your student selected.

