



Tips for Families

Level 2 Module 1 | A Season of Change



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 2 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 2 module 1, *A Season of Change*, students explore the seasons. They answer the module’s Essential Question: How does seasonal change affect nature and people?

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

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

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 2 module 1, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Sky Tree: Seeing Science Through Art*, Thomas Locker
- *Why Do Leaves Change Color?*, Betsy Maestro and Loretta Krupinski
- *The Little Yellow Leaf*, Carin Berger
- *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter’s Wonder*, Mark Cassino, Jon Nelson, and Nora Aoyagi
- *Poetree*, Shauna LaVoy Reynolds and Shahrzad Maydani

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. Modules typically focus on one writing type. In *A Season of Change*, students plan, organize, and write stories about characters who experience seasonal change.

Support your student’s writing by encouraging them to write at home. Encourage your student to observe seasonal change and draw and write to describe what they see.

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:

- affect
- autumn
- blossom
- branch
- change
- conditions
- cycle
- nature
- pigment
- reluctant
- respond
- season
- snow crystal
- spring
- temperature
- weather
- winter

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Discuss the meanings of new, unfamiliar 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.

Select a tree in your neighborhood to observe throughout the year with your student. Invite them to create a work of art (e.g., drawing, painting, sculpture) of the tree during each season.

Keep monthly calendars to track temperatures and weather conditions. Encourage your student to share their observations and questions at the end of each week and month. Discuss patterns related to seasonal change.



Tips for Families

Level 2 Module 2 | *The American West*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 2 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 2 module 2, *The American West*, students explore the people, animals, and plants of the West. They answer the module's Essential Question: How has life in the American West changed over time?

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

- When I say the word *tradition*, what do you think of?
- What have you learned about the American West?

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 2 module 2, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story*, S. D. Nelson
- *Where the Buffalo Roam: Bison in America*, Kate Waters
- *The Buffalo Are Back*, Jean Craighead George and Wendell Minor
- *Powwow Day*, Traci Sorell and Madelyn Goodnight

Ask *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* as you read with your student. Encourage your student to share their own questions about what they read.

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 *The American West*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs about how the West has changed over time.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Invite your student to start a list of new information learned from the books they read.



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:

- bison
- challenge
- community
- government
- homestead
- interdependent
- nation
- opportunity
- prairie
- preserve
- settler
- tradition

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. For example, use the words *opportunity* and *challenge* when helping your student make choices.

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.

Research a Native American nation from your region of the country or one that is of interest to your student.

Discuss traditions in your family or community.





Tips for Families

Level 2 Module 3 | *Civil Rights Advocates*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 2 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 2 module 3, *Civil Rights Advocates*, students explore the power of words, actions, and laws. They answer the module's Essential Question: How did civil rights advocates respond to injustice?

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

- When I say the word *rights*, what do you think of?
- What do you think *injustice* means? Why?

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 2 module 3, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *Martin Luther King Jr. and the March on Washington*, Frances E. Ruffin and Stephen Marchesi
- *I Have a Dream*, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Kadir Nelson
- *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*, Carole Boston Weatherford and Jerome Lagarrigue
- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*, Ruby Bridges
- *We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights*, Maryann Cocca-Leffler and Janine Leffler

Set aside a place and time for reading or fluency homework. Invite your student to share what they have learned from the texts.

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 *Civil Rights Advocates*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs about civil rights advocacy.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Encourage your student to make a list of changes they would like to see in their neighborhood or community.



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:

- advocate
- civil rights
- disability
- equality
- freedom
- inclusive
- injustice
- law
- lawsuit
- march
- nonviolent
- protest
- segregation

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Select a word for your student. Invite them to describe what they know about the word and explain how another word on this list relates to that word.

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 in-person or virtual visit to a local civil rights exhibit, such as one at a museum or gallery. Discuss with your student what they learned, and invite them to share any questions they have.

Invite your student to share a time that they helped a neighbor or classmate with a problem. Encourage them to share the problem and how they helped.

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Tips for Families

Level 2 Module 4 | Good Eating



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 2 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 2 module 4, *Good Eating*, students explore how food fuels the body and mind. They answer the module's Essential Question: How does food nourish us?

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

- What is your favorite food? Why?
- What have you learned about how foods nourish people?

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 2 module 4, students listen to and learn from these books:

- *A Different Pond*, Bao Phi and Thi Bui
- *Freedom Soup*, Tami Charles and Jacqueline Alcántara
- *Stone Soup*, Marcia Brown
- *Bone Button Borscht*, Aubrey Davis and Dušan Petričić
- *The Digestive System*, Christine Taylor-Butler
- *Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition*, Lizzy Rockwell

Connect what happens in books that your student is reading to events and situations in your student's life.

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 *Good Eating*, students plan, organize, and write opinion paragraphs about how food nourishes people and communities.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write at home. Write a grocery list of healthy foods. Create a list of questions that your student has about food, healthy eating, and digestion.



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:

- absorb
- benefit
- digest
- energy
- generation
- generous
- healthy
- ingredient
- miracle
- nourish
- nutrients
- spare
- system

Support learning outside of school by using these words with your student. Invite your student to sort these words into groups and then explain the groupings.

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.

Make a healthy snack with your student. Find a snack recipe that uses one of your student's favorite foods or a new food that they would like to try.

Invite your student to draw a picture that describes a meal tradition in your home. The tradition can be something that you do regularly or on special occasions. Encourage your student to share how these traditions nourish them.

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