



# Tips for Families

## Level 3 Module 1 | *The Sea*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 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 3 module 1, *The Sea*, students immerse themselves in a study of the ocean and its diverse life-forms and learn about people who have explored the sea. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do people explore the sea?

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

- What do you think of when you hear the word *sea* or *ocean*?
- When I say the word *exploration*, 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 literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 1, students read and learn from these books:

- *Amos and Boris*, William Steig
- *Giant Squid: Searching for a Sea Monster*, Mary M. Cerullo and Clyde F. E. Roper
- *Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor*, Robert Burleigh and Raúl Colón
- *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau*, Dan Yaccarino
- *Shark Attack*, Cathy East Dubowski

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 narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *The Sea*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs and essays about the various ways people explore the sea.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Invite your student to write a quiz for you to take about the sea based on what they've learned, and then discuss the answers.



## What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

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

- data
- depth
- discovery
- ecosystem
- explore
- inspire
- invention
- research
- scientist
- surface

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Prompt your student to share the meanings of these words.

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

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Plan an in-person or virtual visit to an aquarium. Discuss with your student what they learned and what additional questions they may have.

Invite your student to gather printed or electronic images related to the ocean and ocean exploration. Encourage them to share the images and the reasons they chose them.

Gift of Mrs. Lessing J. Rosenwald/Courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC





## Tips for Families

### Level 3 Module 2 | Outer Space



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 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 3 module 2, *Outer Space*, students turn their gaze to the night sky to learn how humans across time and place have developed an understanding of space. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do people learn about space?

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

- How is space different from Earth?
- What do we see in the daytime sky that is different from the nighttime sky?

### 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 literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 2, students read and learn from these books:

- *The Star People: A Lakota Story*, S. D. Nelson
- *Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician, Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei*, Peter Sís
- *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*, Brian Floca
- *One Giant Leap: A Historical Account of the First Moon Landing*, Robert Burleigh and Mike Wimmer
- *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*, Margot Lee Shetterly, Winifred Conkling, and Laura Freeman

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Have your student keep track of the books that they've read and their reactions to the books. Discuss your student's entries to identify genres, authors, or series that they enjoy.

### What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Outer Space*, students plan, organize, and write opinion pieces about topics related to space exploration.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Ask your student to write a review to share their opinion about a book they have read or a movie they have watched.

## What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

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

- astronaut
- astronomer
- calculate
- constellation
- contribution
- lunar
- mathematician
- mission
- observe
- orbit
- space
- trajectory
- universe

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Stop and talk about interesting words while reading, and use new words in context.

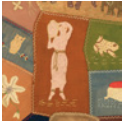
## What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

View the nighttime sky with your student on a clear night, preferably away from light sources. Invite your student to share what they know about the starry sky and what they want to know. Work together to research the answers to their questions either online or at the library.

Encourage your student to research a question they have about space or space exploration.





## Tips for Families

### Level 3 Module 3 | A New Home



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 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 3 module 3, *A New Home*, students explore stories of some of those who have come to the United States from other countries and how stories connect people across cultures and generations. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do stories help us understand immigrants' experiences?

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

- What is or would be challenging about moving to a new country?
- What is or might be exciting about moving to a new country?

### 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 literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 3, students read and learn from these books:

- *Islandborn*, Junot Díaz and Leo Espinosa
- *The Keeping Quilt*, Patricia Polacco
- *The Blessing Cup*, Patricia Polacco
- *Watercress*, Andrea Wang and Jason Chin

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Ask your student questions about what they are reading in school.

### What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *A New Home*, students plan, organize, and write stories involving characters who move to a new place.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Provide your student with a blank book to use as a daily journal. Invite them to describe events from their day or to record their thoughts and observations.



## What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

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

- adjust
- generation
- hardship
- immigrant
- immigrate
- keepsake
- liberty
- memory
- origin
- tradition

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Show curiosity about words, letting your student know when you encounter an unfamiliar word and how you determine its meaning.

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

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Research with your student the culture of a country that interests them. Discuss how life in that country is similar to or different from life in the United States.

Invite your student to share a tradition or keepsake that they would like to pass to a future generation. Then tell your student about a tradition or keepsake that you want to pass to them.

Gift of the Zelanka Family, in honor of Bernard and Rhoda Zelanka, 2016, Courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art





## Tips for Families

### Level 3 Module 4 | Artists Make Art



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 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 3 module 4, *Artists Make Art*, students examine the lives and works of artists who paint, make music, dance, or write poetry. They answer the module's Essential Question: What is an artist?

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

- If you could be any kind of artist, what kind would you be? Why?
- What is your favorite art form to observe? What is your favorite art form to participate in? 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 literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 4, students read and learn from these books:

- *Emma's Rug*, Allen Say
- *Action Jackson*, Jan Greenberg, Sandra Jordan, and Robert Andrew Parker
- *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of a Century*, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Brian Selznick
- *Alvin Ailey*, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney
- *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa*, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney
- *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*, Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Visit the library to find books of interest to your student. Participate in library programs such as summer reading.



## What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Artists Make Art*, students plan, organize, and write research papers about what makes the works of different artists unique.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Invite your student to plan an art project by asking them to create a list of the materials they need or to describe the steps they'll take to complete the project.

## What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

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

- artist
- express
- imagine
- improvise
- inspiration
- original
- research
- rhythm
- style
- unique

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Encourage your student to look up new and unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

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

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Ask your student to name the artists they have studied. Encourage them to share what they know about the artists and their works. Visit a museum together, online or in person, to see more works from a favorite artist.

Have a family art night in which each member creates, performs, or shares a drawing, song, or dance.

