



Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 1 | A Great Heart



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 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 4 module 1, *A Great Heart*, students examine the heart as both a literal muscle that sustains human life and a figurative center of emotions. They answer the module's Essential Question: What does having a great heart mean?

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

- What do you think of when you hear the word *great*?
- What do you think of when you hear the word *heart*?

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 4 module 1, students read and learn from these books:

- *The Circulatory Story*, Mary K. Corcoran and Jef Czekaj
- *Love That Dog*, Sharon Creech

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 *A Great Heart*, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs and essays about what it means to have a great heart.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Make a list with your student of people who demonstrate the traits of greatheartedness through courage, generosity, or empathy. Ask your student to select one person to write a letter, email, or note to in which they tell that person how they show a great heart.



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:

- blood vessel
- circulate
- circulatory system
- coronary
- courageous
- empathetic
- figurative
- generous
- greathearted
- healthy
- heart
- literal

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, discuss the meanings of new, unknown words with your student.

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.

Participate in an activity with your student that benefits the heart, such as planning and preparing a healthy meal or exercising.

Invite your student to share a time when they exhibited a great heart through courage, generosity, or empathy. Or have a mealtime where each family member takes a moment to share an example of another family member's greatheartedness.





Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 2 | *Myths and Enduring Stories*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 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 4 module 2, *Myths and Enduring Stories*, students consider the lasting qualities of myths and stories that entertain, teach, and connect people across time and place. They answer the module’s Essential Question: What do people learn from myths and stories?

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

- How does your family or community share stories? What stories do they share?
- What is one of your favorite stories? Why do you like the story?

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 4 module 2, students read and learn from these books:

- *Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words and Wisdom from Greek and Roman Mythology*, Lise Lunge-Larsen and Gareth Hinds
- excerpt from *Understanding Greek Myths*, Natalie Hyde
- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Continue to read aloud to your student, choosing more advanced books than they could read to themselves and discussing what you read.

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 *Myths and Enduring Stories*, students plan, organize, and write stories using words derived from Greek and Roman myths.

Support your student’s writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Provide time for your student to use a computer at school, at home, or at the local library to write a story they can share with family and friends.



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:

- endure
- fortune
- heroic
- illuminate
- invention
- muse
- myth
- nemesis
- story
- victory

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, with your student, follow a website that features a word of the day. Discuss each day's word, its meaning, and its origin with your student.

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.

Support your student in researching the author of their favorite book. Discuss with your student what they learn from their research.

Invite your student to share their favorite children's story with a younger sibling or friend. Encourage them to consider creative ways to tell the story. For example, they could invent unique voices for different characters, create a short video, or use puppets.





Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 3 | *The American Revolution*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 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 4 module 3, *The American Revolution*, students learn about people who experienced the American Revolution and the ideals that inspired the birth of our nation and are still valued today. They answer the module's Essential Question: How does the pursuit of freedom inspire people's actions?

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

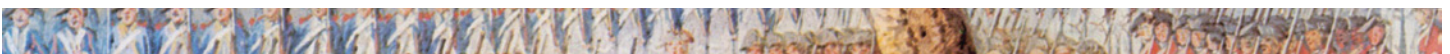
- What do you think of when you hear the word *freedom*?
- What do you know about the American Revolution?

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 4 module 3, students read and learn from these books and a historical document:

- *Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak*, Kay Winters and Larry Day
- Declaration of Independence: Introduction and Preamble
- *The Scarlet Stockings Spy*, Trinkia Hakes Noble and Robert Papp
- *A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent*, Anne Rockwell and Floyd Cooper

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Visit a local library together so your student can choose other fiction or informational books about the colonial period or other historical periods of interest.



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 American Revolution*, students plan, organize, and write opinion essays about topics related to the American Revolution.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. After your student studies the Declaration of Independence, invite them to write their own declaration in which they ask for a privilege they want and provide reasons why they are ready for it.

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:

- declare
- defiance
- independence
- liberty
- Loyalist
- neutral
- Patriot
- propaganda
- protest
- revolution
- unify

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Invite your student to select a word from the list and to tell what they know about it and how it might relate to another word on the list.

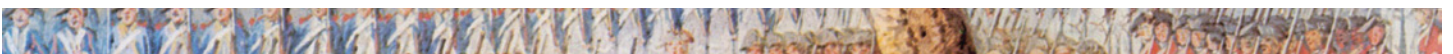
What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

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.

Discuss with your student historical events that interest them. Encourage your student to research answers to questions they may have about the events and have them share what they learned.

Tour a local historical neighborhood, site, or museum with your student. Ask your student to share their opinion of the visit and to support that opinion with reasons and evidence.

Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. (1763). A new map of North America





Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 4 | *Let's Play Ball*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 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 4 module 4, *Let's Play Ball*, students learn about the rich history of baseball, the power of Negro League baseball, and the individuals who contributed to the Negro Leagues' success. They answer the module's Essential Question: How can individuals contribute to a collective legacy?

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

- If you could play any sport, what would it be and why?
- What do you know about the sport of baseball?

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 4 module 4, students read and learn from these books:

- *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Kadir Nelson
- *Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson*, Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. For example, talk about reading at mealtimes. Encourage your student to retell or to share their opinions about books they are 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. In *Let's Play Ball*, the last module of the year, students integrate what they have learned about the Negro Leagues, informative writing, and speaking and presenting. They research an individual from the Negro Leagues and then plan and organize a presentation, sharing information through writing, speaking, and a visual display.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Create a list of different sports. Ask your student to select one sport and to write questions they have about it. Prompt them to write a letter or an email to a coach or an athlete they know who can answer their questions.

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:

- barrier
- collective
- dedication
- harmony
- integrate
- league
- legend
- passion
- pride
- professional
- research
- segregate

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, point out and discuss interesting words when reading.

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.

Invite your student to research the origins of a sports team or sporting event, such as the Olympics, World Cup football, Tour de France, or the NFL championship. Have your student present their findings to your family.

Play baseball or another sport or game, such as soccer, tennis, basketball, or flying discs, with your student. Discuss the rules of the sport or game, what makes it fun, and the skills that players need to participate in it.

