



Tips for Families

Level 6 Module 1 | *The Great Depression*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 6 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 6 module 1, *The Great Depression*, students explore how people demonstrate resilience when they face challenges. Students examine how Americans persisted and fostered community during the Great Depression. They answer the module’s Essential Question: How do people persevere through hardship?

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

- What was the Great Depression and what can we learn from that time in American history? How did the Great Depression affect young people in particular?
- What do we do as a family when we are faced with challenges?

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

- *Picturing a Nation: The Great Depression’s Finest Photographers Introduce America to Itself*, Martin W. Sandler
- *Bud, Not Buddy*, Christopher Paul Curtis

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Visit the library together or search online with your student to find additional books and information about the Great Depression.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, arguments, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *The Great Depression*, students plan, organize, and write narratives related to the Great Depression. They practice writing dialogue and using precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey events and experiences. At the end of the module, students craft a third-person narrative about a resilient character who lives during the Great Depression.

Support your student’s writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write.



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:

- adversity
- depression
- devastating
- economy
- hardship
- levity
- migrate
- perseverance
- resilience
- transient

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Point out these words or words with similar meanings in books, newspapers, and other texts in your home.

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 how the Great Depression impacted your region and discuss how different groups persevered through different challenges.

Encourage your student to find other jazz songs that they enjoy. Discuss the significance of the meaning of each song.





Tips for Families

Level 6 Module 2 | Free to Learn



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 6 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 6 module 2, *Free to Learn*, students explore the courageous story of Malala Yousafzai as she pursues education for girls despite the Taliban’s attempts to silence her through intimidation and violence. Students observe how the courage of advocates who take risks to stand against injustice—such as Malala and her father—often inspires others to advocate for equality as well. They answer the module’s Essential Question: How do convictions inspire actions?

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

- Where did Malala’s convictions originate?
- What rights would you try to protect?
- What is inspiring about Malala’s 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 6 module 2, students read and learn from this book :

- *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*, Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Find and share articles with your student about Malala’s continued activism or about other people taking actions to improve their society.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, arguments, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Free to Learn*, students plan, organize, and write informative essays expressing their knowledge of advocacy. Students learn to draft topic sentences that support their thesis, properly cite evidence, create an introductory paragraph, and craft an effective conclusion. At the end of the module, students write an informative essay defining advocacy and explaining Malala’s motivations and actions as a human rights advocate.

Support your student’s writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Invite your student to write a letter to argue why a particular human right—such as education—is important.



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:

- advocacy
- conviction
- courage
- democracy
- education
- equality
- extremism
- human rights
- injustice
- terrorism
- violation
- vulnerable

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Point out any of these words to your student when you see them in your daily life.

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.

Consider showing your student photographs and maps of Pakistan. Compare the terrain and landscape to where you live.

Share stories within your family about a person in your community who acted courageously to take a stand for something they believed in.