



Tips for Families

Level 7 Module 1 | *The Middle Ages*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 7 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 7 module 1, *The Middle Ages*, students explore how adolescents' lives were influenced by the particular opportunities and limitations available to them during the Middle Ages. They examine how medieval adolescents' experiences were affected by factors such as education and societal expectations. They answer the module's Essential Question: How does society influence a person's future?

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

- How does life during the Middle Ages compare to your life?
- What factors had the biggest influence on adolescents' lives during the Middle Ages?

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

- *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village*, Laura Amy Schlitz and Robert Byrd
- *Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess, Page*, Richard Platt and Chris Riddell
- *The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Explore ways your student can continue to build knowledge about the Middle Ages. Consider visiting museums, watching films, or finding books of interest that can deepen their understanding.

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 Middle Ages*, students plan, organize, and write narratives about the Middle Ages. They practice writing from different points of view and use transitions, precise vocabulary, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey action, events, and experiences. At the end of the module, students craft a narrative about a medieval adolescent who encounters someone from a different social class.

Support your student's writing by encouraging them to write stories that take place during the Middle Ages. After your student reads *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* encourage them to write similar scripts that can be performed or to write a narrative about their own society.



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:

- agency
- apprentice
- expectation
- hierarchy
- medieval
- midwife
- parentage
- privilege
- status

Engage your student in using these words and exploring words more broadly. With your student, take turns trying to use these words in a sentence.

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

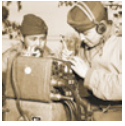
If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

While reading *The Midwife's Apprentice*, your student learned about animal husbandry and medical remedies from the Middle Ages. Consider expanding their knowledge about careers in the medical profession, such as midwives or veterinarians. .

With your student, seek out art and architecture from the Middle Ages on the internet or in a local museum.

Image Courtesy of Victoria and Albert Museum





Tips for Families

Level 7 Module 2 | Navajo Code Talkers



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 7 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 7 module 2, *Navajo Code Talkers*, students explore how individuals and societies benefit from cultural knowledge. In this module, students build knowledge about individuals and societies and their cultural traditions and communities through the study of Navajo code talkers and their contributions during World War II. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do societies benefit from cultural knowledge?

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

- How did the Navajo code talkers contribute to the Allied victory in World War II?
- What did you learn about the Navajo and their culture?

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 7 module 2, students read and learn from this book:

- *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two*, Joseph Bruchac

Support your student by setting aside time in your daily or weekly schedule for reading. Share what you are reading with your student. Visit the library together to find books about the Navajo or other Native American stories, books about World War II, or other topics of interest to your student.

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 *Navajo Code Talkers*, students plan, organize, and write compare-and-contrast essays and build on their knowledge of the main character's Navajo identity and culture in *Code Talker*. At the end of the module, students write a compare-and-contrast essay about how two aspects of the main character's cultural identity influence his experience in the marines.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Suggest that your student write and send a note, using mail or email, to a relative or friend about Navajo code talkers and their role during World War II. .



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:

- assimilation
- camaraderie
- culture
- empowered
- harmonious
- infamy
- native
- oral tradition
- propaganda
- terrain

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 unknown 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.

Learn more about the countries and cultures impacted by World War II alongside your student. Look online or visit a museum together to build a deeper understanding of this time period.

Share any family stories of those affected by the war.

