





ABOUT WIT & WISDOM

Wit & Wisdom® is a Kindergarten through Grade 8 English language arts (ELA) curriculum created by Great Minds®, an organization that brings together teachers and experts who believe all students deserve access to rich, rigorous content. With Wit & Wisdom, every text a student explores is authentic and of the highest quality. Students use these texts at every turn—to learn, and eventually master, essential reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary skills. Instead of basals, students read books they love to build knowledge of important topics and to develop and refine literacy skills. All students read and discuss grade-level texts, and the curriculum includes suggestions for supporting this learning at key moments in the lessons.

Wit & Wisdom is composed of four modules per grade level. Each artfully explores a specific topic to develop depth of understanding and inspire curiosity. The core of each module is a selection of literary works, informational texts, and visual art. Modules are made up of approximately 30 lessons that are covered in six to eight weeks. All modules integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language instruction.

HIGH RATINGS

The independent, nonprofit reviewer EdReports.org gives *Wit & Wisdom* top ratings for text quality, building knowledge, and usability. *Wit & Wisdom* is the only ELA resource to receive a Tier 1 designation for all grades, Kindergarten through Grade 8, from the Louisiana Department of Education.

PROVEN RESULTS

Schools and districts nationwide are experiencing increased student engagement and growth with *Wit & Wisdom*. See their stories and data at greatminds.org/english.

ONGOING SUPPORT

To support and sustain successful implementation, *Wit & Wisdom*'s team offers customizable professional development—online or on-site. *Wit & Wisdom* also includes support resources available only from Great Minds:

Introducing Wit & Wisdom

- Core text list
- Implementation Guide
- Module o (GK-2, G3-5, G6-8)

Extending Wit & Wisdom

- Parent Tip Sheets
- Volume of Reading text list
- Wit & Wisdom assessment resources (Standards Trackers and Question Sets)
- The Art of *Wit & Wisdom* (lessons and vocabulary relating to the curriculum's rich artwork)

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading Correlation to Wit & Wisdom

GRADE 8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The majority of the Grade 8 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English Language Arts and Reading are fully covered by Grade 8 of the *Wit & Wisdom* curriculum. The areas where the Grade 8 Texas standards and Grade 8 of the *Wit & Wisdom* curriculum do not align will require supplemental materials and use of *Wit & Wisdom* content from other grade levels. A detailed analysis of alignment is provided in the table below. With strategic placement of supplemental materials, students can be successful in achieving the proficiencies of the Texas standards while benefiting from the rich texts and knowledge building of *Wit & Wisdom*.

KEY

Wit & Wisdom fully addresses the Texas standard.

Wit & Wisdom may not completely address the Texas standard.

Wit & Wisdom does not address the Texas standard.

Wit & Wisdom addresses the Texas standard at a different grade level.

G = grade level Examples:

M = module G8 M1 L6 = Grade 8 Module 1 Lesson 6

L = lesson G8 M1 L6DD = Grade 8 Module 1 Lesson 6 Deep Dive

DD = Deep Dive

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard		Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Developing and Sustaining Foundational	0, 1	g, discussion, and thinking—oral language. The see student is expected to:	stu	dent develops oral language through listening, speaking,
Language Skills		8.1.A listen actively to interpret a message by summarizing, asking questions, and making comments;		G8 M1 L18–19 G8 M3 L11, L32, L34 G8 M4 L9, L12–14, L21–22, L24, L33
		8.1.B follow and give complex oral instructions to perform specific tasks, answer questions, or solve problems;		Supplemental material is necessary to address giving complex oral instructions. The following lessons address following complex oral instructions. G8 M3 L8, L11
		8.1.C advocate a position using anecdotes, analogies, and/or illustrations employing eye contact, speaking rate, volume, enunciation, a variety of natural gestures, and conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively; and		Supplemental material is necessary to address advocating a position using anecdotes, analogies, and/or illustrations. The following lessons address employing eye contact, speaking rate, volume, enunciation, a variety of natural gestures, and conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively. G8 M1 L20, L22–23, L33 G8 M2 L7, L27, L30 G8 M3 L17, L22, L28
				G8 M4 L30

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard		Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.1.D participate collaboratively in discussions, plan agendas with clear goals and deadlines, set time limits for speakers, take notes, and vote on key issues.		Supplemental material is necessary to address planning agendas, setting time limits for speakers, and voting on key issues in collaborative discussions. The following lessons address participating collaboratively in discussions with clear goals and deadlines and taking notes. G8 M2 L24, L33
				G8 M3 L11, L34
Developing and Sustaining Foundational Language Skills	8.2 Listening, speaking The student is expe		he	student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively.
Language Skins		8.2.A use print or digital resources to determine the meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, word origin, and part of speech;		Supplemental material is necessary to address using print or digital resources to determine syllabication and word origin. The following lessons address using print or digital resources to determine the meaning, pronunciation, and part of speech.
				G8 M1 L3DD, L4DD, L11DD, L13DD, L23DD, L24DD, L27DD
				G8 M2 L1, L1DD, L4, L6DD, L7DD, L10DD, L12DD, L20DD, L29DD, L30DD
				G8 M3 L1–3, L6, L6DD, L7DD, L8–9, L9DD, L10DD, L12, L12DD, L15DD, L18DD, L19, L21, L21DD, L22, L22DD, L30, L30DD, L31DD
				G8 M4 L2, L3DD, L4–5, L10DD, L15DD, L17DD, L19DD, L20DD

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.2.B use context within or beyond a paragraph to clarify the meaning of unfamiliar or ambiguous words; and	G8 M1 L4DD, L11DD, L12, L12DD, L13DD, L15, L23, L27DD, L32DD, L33DD G8 M2 L2DD, L3-4, L6DD, L7DD, L8DD, L10, L10DD, L11DD, L12, L12DD, L13, L17-18, L22DD, L25, L31, L34DD G8 M3 L1-2, L2DD, L3, L6DD, L9-10, L10DD, L14, L14DD, L15DD, L18DD, L19DD, L20, L20DD, L21, L21DD, L23, L24DD, L30DD, L33DD G8 M4 L3DD, L5, L5DD, L6DD, L7, L10, L10DD, L11DD, L13, L15DD, L17, L19DD, L20DD, L28DD, L29DD
		8.2.C determine the meaning and usage of grade-level academic English words derived from Greek and Latin roots such as ast, qui, path, mand/mend, and duc.	G8 M1 L12DD G8 M2 L10DD, L20DD, L22DD G8 M3 L10DD, L14DD, L21DD, L30DD G8 M4 L6DD, L17, L17DD
Developing and Sustaining Foundational Language Skills	The student reads g	grade-level text with fluency and e student is expected to adjust fluency when text based on the reading purpose.	Supplemental material is necessary to address this standard thoroughly. G8 M1 L6–18, L20–21
Developing and Sustaining Foundational Language Skills	sustained reading.' independently. The	g, reading, writing, and thinking—self- Γhe student reads grade-appropriate texts e student is expected to self-select text and for a sustained period of time.	Each <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> module includes a Volume of Reading list (Appendix D) which lists texts at a variety of complexity levels that students can select from and read independently.

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Comprehension Skills		g, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple ehension of increasingly complex texts. The stud	ts. The student uses metacognitive skills to both develop at is expected to:
		8.5.A establish purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts;	Wit & Wisdom does not explicitly address students establishing their own purposes for reading assigned and self-selected texts.
		8.5.B generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information;	Supplemental material is necessary to address generating questions about the text after reading it. The following lessons address generating questions about text before and during reading to deepen understanding and gain information.
			G8 M1 L1–2, L24 G8 M2 L1 G8 M3 L6, L12, L23
		8.5.C make, correct, or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures;	Supplemental material is necessary to address making, correcting, or confirming predictions using text structure. The following lessons address making, correcting, or confirming predictions using text features and characteristics of the genre. G8 M3 L12, L23, L30
			G8 M4 L1–2
		8.5.D create mental images to deepen understanding;	Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 7. G7 M2 L3, L5

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.5.E make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts, and society;	Supplemental material is necessary to address making connections to personal experiences. The following lessons address making connections to ideas in other texts and to society. G8 M1 L3-4, L11, L13DD, L27 G8 M2 L14, L19, L26 G8 M3 L24-25 G8 M4 L3-5, L10-12, L16, L18-20, L22-23, L33
		8.5.F make inferences and use evidence to support understanding;	G8 M1 L1-3, L5-8, L10, L12, L14-15, L21, L25 G8 M2 L3-4, L6-20, L22-24, L28, L33, L36 G8 M3 L1-10, L20-21, L23-27, L29-30, L33-34 G8 M4 L3-7, L9-11, L13, L15-16, L18-20
		8.5.G evaluate details read to determine key ideas;	G8 M1 L2, L12, L18 G8 M2 L2-3, L9, L12-13, L31-32 G8 M3 L15
		8.5.H synthesize information to create new understanding; and	G8 M2 L2, L5, L11, L16 G8 M4 L22, L25–26
		8.5.I monitor comprehension and make adjustments such as re-reading, using background knowledge, asking questions, and annotating when understanding breaks down.	Wit & Wisdom does not explicitly address monitoring comprehension and making adjustments.

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Response Skills		g, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple that are read, heard, or viewed. The student is ex	ets. The student responds to an increasingly challenging exted to:
		8.6.A describe personal connections to a variety of sources, including self-selected texts;	Supplemental material, such as use of the Wit & Wisdom Volume of Reading list, is necessary to ensure making connections with self-selected texts. Wit & Wisdom addresses making personal connections to varied sources in Grade 7. G7 M1 L1
		8.6.B write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within and across genres;	G8 M4 L3–5, L11, L16, L19, L23
		8.6. C use text evidence to support an appropriate response;	G8 M4 L4–5, L11, L16
		8.6.D paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;	G8 M1 L2, L12, L19, L23–25, L29–30 G8 M2 L1–3, L5, L8–10, L12, L14, L18, L23, L31, L34 G8 M3 L2, L4–7, L9–10, L13, L20–21, L23, L30 G8 M4 L5, L5DD, L6DD, L13, L17, L19, L23
		8.6. E interact with sources in meaningful ways such as notetaking, annotating, freewriting, or illustrating;	G8 M2 L21 G8 M3 L17–18

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.6.F	G8 M1 L29DD
		respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate;	G8 M2 L24
			G8 M4 L5DD, L13, L20DD, L22DD
		8.6.G	G8 M2 L13, L24, L30, L32, L36
		discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meanings of text;	G8 M3 L9, L12, L14
		8.6.H respond orally or in writing with appropriate register, vocabulary, tone, and voice;	Supplemental material is necessary to address responding orally or in writing with appropriate register and voice. The following lessons address responding orally or in writing with appropriate vocabulary and tone.
			G8 M1 L15, L17, L21
		8.6.I	Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 7.
		reflect on and adjust responses as new evidence is presented; and	G7 M1 L7
			G7 M2 L30
			G7 M3 L29, L37
			G7 M4 L31
		8.6.J	G8 M3 L14, L19
		defend or challenge the authors' claims using relevant text evidence.	G8 M4 L23

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Multiple Genres		ements within and across increasingly complex	cts—literary elements. The student recognizes and aditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse literary
		8.7.A analyze how themes are developed through the interaction of characters and events;	G8 M1 L2, L6, L14 G8 M2 L9, L13, L22, L27, L29–30, L36 G8 M3 L5–7
		8.7.B analyze how characters' motivations and behaviors influence events and resolution of the conflict;	Supplemental material is necessary to address analyzing how characters' motivations and behaviors influence the resolution of the conflict. The following lessons address analyzing how characters' motivations and behaviors influence events. G8 M2 L8-9, L17 G8 M3 L3, L6
		8.7.C analyze non-linear plot development such as flashbacks, foreshadowing, subplots, and parallel plot structures and compare it to linear plot development; and	Wit & Wisdom does not address analyzing and comparing linear and non-linear plot development.
		8.7.D explain how the setting influences the values and beliefs of characters.	G8 M2 L15, L17, L23, L25 G8 M3 L10

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard		Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Multiple Genres	8.8			
	genre-specific chara			ts—genres. The student recognizes and analyzes ross increasingly complex traditional, contemporary,
		8.8.A		Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 7.
		demonstrate knowledge of literary genres such as realistic fiction, adventure stories,		G7 M1 L31–33
		historical fiction, mysteries, humor, fantasy, science fiction, and short stories;		G7 M2 L4, L10
		8.8.B		G8 M1 L8, L11, L17, L19DD, L20DD
		analyze the effect of graphical elements such as punctuation and line length in poems across a variety of poetic forms such as epic, lyric, and humorous poetry;		
		8.8.C		G8 M3 L6, L10, L30
		analyze how playwrights develop dramatic action through the use of acts and scenes;		
		8.8.D		
		analyze characteristics and structural element	ts o	of informational text, including:
		i. the controlling idea or thesis with supporting evidence;		G8 M1 L12, L23–28
				G8 M2 L2–4, L12–13, L31–32, L34
				G8 M3 L13, L15–16
				G8 M4 L5, L10, L15–17, L20–21
		ii. features such as footnotes, endnotes, and citations; and		G8 M4 L2, L16
		iii. multiple organizational patterns within a text to develop the thesis;		G8 M4 L19–20

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard		Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.8.E		
		analyze characteristics and structures of argur	me	ntative text by:
		i. identifying the claim and analyzing the argument;		G8 M3 L13–16, L19, L23
		. 3		G8 M4 L20, L23
		ii. identifying and explaining the counter argument; and		G8 M4 L23
		iii. identifying the intended audience or reader; and		Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 7.
				G7 M3 L13
		8.8.F analyze characteristics of multimodal and digital texts.		Wit & Wisdom does not address analyzing characteristics of multimodal and digital texts in the middle grades. Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 5.
Author's	8.9			
Purpose and Craft	authors' choices and	d how they influence and communicate meaning	g v	tts. The student uses critical inquiry to analyze the vithin a variety of texts. The student analyzes and applies as and performances. The student is expected to:
		8.9.A		G8 M3 L12–16, L23
		explain the author's purpose and message within a text;		G8 M4 L6–8, L11–12, L15–16, L19–20, L23
		8.9.B		G8 M1 L3
		analyze how the use of text structure contributes to the author's purpose;		G8 M4 L19
		8.9.C		G8 M1 L8, L11, L17, L19DD, L20DD
		analyze the author's use of print and graphic features to achieve specific purposes;		

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.9.D	G8 M1 L3–4, L6DD, L8DD, L21DD
		describe how the author's use of figurative language such as extended metaphor achieves specific purposes;	G8 M2 L15, L20, L29 G8 M3 L3-4, L8
			G8 M4 L18, L20
		8.9.E	G8 M1 L6DD, L7DD, L8DD, L16DD, L21DD
		identify and analyze the use of literary devices, including multiple points of view	G8 M2 L9DD
		and irony;	G8 M3 L19, L21–22, L29
			G8 M4 L18
		8.9.F analyze how the author's use of language contributes to the mood, voice, and tone; and	Supplemental material is necessary to address analyzing how the author's use of language contributes to the mood and voice of the text. The following lessons address analyzing how the author's use of language contributes to the tone of the text.
			G8 M2 L17, L19–20, L22–23
		8.9.G explain the purpose of rhetorical devices such as analogy and juxtaposition and of logical fallacies such as bandwagon appeals and circular reasoning.	Supplemental material is necessary to address explaining the purpose of juxtaposition and logical fallacies. The following lessons address explaining the purpose of an analogy as a rhetorical device. G8 M4 L18, L20

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
Composition	8.10		
	9: 1		texts—writing process. The student uses the writing uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to:
		8.10.A	Wit & Wisdom does not address students planning a
		plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience using a range of strategies such as discussion, background reading, and personal interests;	first draft by selecting a genre.
		8.10.B	
		develop drafts into a focused, structured, and	coherent piece of writing by:
		i. organizing with purposeful structure, including an introduction, transitions,	G8 M2 L13, L15, L25–26, L32, L36–37
		coherence within and across paragraphs, and a conclusion; and	G8 M3 L19, L22, L30–31, L35
		paragrapho, and a concrasion, and	G8 M4 L27
		ii. developing an engaging idea reflecting	G8 M1 L16, L28
		depth of thought with specific facts, details, and examples;	G8 M2 L5, L16, L32, L35–37
			G8 M3 L8, L16, L27, L35
		8.10.C	G8 M1 L11, L21, L28DD, L32
		revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and	G8 M2 L3DD, L5DD
		sentence variety;	G8 M3 L10, L36
			G8 M4 L27

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom	
		8.10.D		
		edit drafts using standard English conventions, including:		
		i. complete complex sentences with subject-verb agreement and avoidance of splices, run-ons, and fragments;	Supplemental material is necessary to address the avoidance of splices. <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses subject-verb agreement in Grade 3 and the avoidance of run-ons and fragments in Grade 4. The following lessons address creating complex sentences.	
			G8 M1 L10DD, L25DD, L26DD, L28DD	
		ii. consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses and active and passive voice;	Wit & Wisdom addresses consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses in Grade 5. The following lessons address consistent, appropriate use of active and passive voice.	
			G8 M2 L21DD, L23DD, L24DD, L25DD, L26DD, L37DD	
			G8 M4 L25DD, L26DD, L27DD	
		iii. prepositions and prepositional phrases and their influence on subject-verb agreement;	Wit & Wisdom does not address the influence of prepositions and prepositional phrases on subject-verb agreement. Wit & Wisdom does not address using prepositions and prepositional phrases in the middle grades. Wit & Wisdom addresses using prepositions and prepositional phrases in Grades 1, 3, 4, and 5.	
		iv. pronoun-antecedent agreement;	Wit & Wisdom does not address pronoun-antecedent agreement in the middle grades. Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 3.	
		v. correct capitalization;	Wit & Wisdom does not address correct capitalization in the middle grades. Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 4.	

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		vi. punctuation, including commas in nonrestrictive phrases and clauses, semicolons, colons, and parentheses; and	Supplemental material is necessary to address semicolons, colons, and parentheses. <i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses using commas in nonrestrictive phrases and clauses in Grade 6. The following lessons address using commas for pauses or to punctuate interrupters. G8 M1 L19DD, L20DD, L22DD G8 M2 L31DD, L32DD, L33DD, L37DD G8 M3 L1DD, L5DD, L35DD
		vii. correct spelling, including commonly confused terms such as its/it's, affect/effect, there/their/they're, and to/two/too; and	Wit & Wisdom addresses commonly confused terms in Grade 4. The following lessons address correct spelling. G8 M2 L1DD, L32
			G8 M3 L30DD, L31, L31DD, L32DD, L36
		8.10.E	G8 M4 L32
		publish written work for appropriate audiences.	
Composition	0. 1	g, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple ultiple texts that are meaningful. The student is	ts—genres. The student uses genre characteristics and expected to:
		8.11.A	G8 M1 L5–8, L10–11, L13, L17, L31
		compose literary texts such as personal narratives, fiction, and poetry using genre characteristics and craft;	G8 M2 L3, L14, L16
		8.11.B	G8 M1 L16, L28
		compose informational texts, including multi-paragraph essays that convey information about a topic, using a clear controlling idea or thesis statement and genre characteristics and craft;	G8 M2 L28, L31–32, L35–37 G8 M3 L8

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard		Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.11.C compose multi-paragraph argumentative texts using genre characteristics and craft; and		G8 M3 L33–36
		8.11.D compose correspondence that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information in a business or friendly structure.		G8 M4 L8
Research Listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts. The student engages in both she sustained recursive inquiry processes for a variety of purposes. The student is expected to:				8 8
		8.12.A		G8 M2 L1
		generate student-selected and teacher- guided questions for formal and informal inquiry;		G8 M4 L1–4, L10–11
		8.12.B develop and revise a plan;		G8 M4 L1–3, L10–11, L16
		8.12.C refine the major research question, if necessary, guided by the answers to a secondary set of questions;		G8 M4 L1–2, L16
		8.12.D identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources;		G8 M2 L1 G8 M3 L1, L8 G8 M4 L18, L25–26
		8.12.E differentiate between primary and secondary sources;		G8 M4 L7

Strand	Knowledge and Skills	Standard	Aligned Components of Wit & Wisdom
		8.12.F	G8 M2 L2, L5
		synthesize information from a variety of sources;	G8 M4 L22, L25–26
		8.12.G	G8 M4 L15–16, L18
		differentiate between paraphrasing and plagiarism when using source materials;	
		8.12.H examine sources for:	
		i. reliability, credibility, and bias, including omission; and	Supplemental material is necessary to address examining sources for bias and omission. The following lessons address examining sources for reliability and credibility. G8 M4 L13, L18
		ii. faulty reasoning such as bandwagon appeals, repetition, and loaded language;	Wit & Wisdom addresses this standard in Grade 7. G7 M3 L14–15, L23
		8.12.I	G8 M4 L16, L26
		display academic citations and use source materials ethically; and	
		8.12.J use an appropriate mode of delivery, whether written, oral, or multimodal, to present results.	G8 M4 L28–32