



**WIT &  
WISDOM®**

# Curiosity, Inquiry, Knowledge

The North Dakota English  
Language Arts & Literacy  
Content Standards (2023)  
Alignment to *Wit & Wisdom*

**GRADE 6 | October 2023**



## ABOUT *WIT & WISDOM*

*Wit & Wisdom*® is a Kindergarten through Grade 8 English language arts (ELA) curriculum created by Great Minds. Founded in 2007, Great Minds PBC has evolved from an education advocacy start-up to a respected curriculum developer providing the highest quality materials and professional development to schools and districts nationwide. In pursuit of its goal to raise expectations for every student, Great Minds enlists educators to write curricula that use proven learning strategies to reward students' natural curiosity, build knowledge, and cultivate lifelong critical-thinking skills. Writing teams collaborate to ensure a consistent structure and vision for learning within and across all grade levels.

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. 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. Modules build students' knowledge of important topics in the arts, science, and social studies through the use of diverse and culturally relevant texts. 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.

*Wit & Wisdom* was intentionally designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program therefore the majority of the foundational skills standards will fall into this category. With strategic placement of supplemental materials, students can be successful in achieving the proficiencies of the North Dakota standards while benefiting from the rich texts and knowledge building of *Wit & Wisdom*. For more information on *Wit & Wisdom*'s alignment to the science of reading, please see [The Science of Reading and Wit & Wisdom](#) and [Examining Scarborough's Rope: Background Knowledge](#). A detailed analysis of the alignment between the North Dakota English Language Arts & Literacy Content Standards and *Wit & Wisdom* is provided in the table on the pages that follow this introduction.

An adoption of *Wit & Wisdom* brings to your classroom:

#### HIGH RATINGS

The independent, nonprofit reviewer EdReports.org gives *Wit & Wisdom* top ratings for text quality, building knowledge, and usability. *Wit & Wisdom* received 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 <https://greatminds.org/research>. Data stories from districts can be found at <https://greatminds.org/case-studies>. Finally, we are proud to share *The Knowledge Map Project*, an initiative of the Institute of Educational Policy at Johns Hopkins University and Chiefs for Change. This study provided *Wit & Wisdom* with high marks, saying it contains “high-quality texts with extensive topical coverage,” and “makes especially good use of the visual arts.” Read more at <https://edpolicy.education.jhu.edu/knowledge-map/>.

#### ONGOING SUPPORT

Great Minds offers *Wit & Wisdom* curriculum-specific professional development that values educators’ experiences and unique contexts. Our professional development helps teachers build their content knowledge and instructional practices to guide them in how to develop habits of inquiry in their students through rich experiences with the curriculum’s complex texts. Ongoing support includes:

##### **Introducing *Wit & Wisdom***

- *Wit & Wisdom* Blog and Online Resources Implementation Guide
- Module Zero (GK–2, G3–5, G6–8)
- *Wit & Wisdom* Preparation Protocols
- On-Demand Professional Development and Implementation Support Videos

##### **Extending *Wit & Wisdom***

- Family Tip Sheets
- Multilingual Glossary
- 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)

## COMMUNICATION (C)

Learners will organize and express ideas in a format appropriate for the audience and purpose, focusing on skills involved with collaboration, active listening, and oral presentation of information.

### Presentational Communication

Learners will organize and express information in a format appropriate to the audience and purpose.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.C.1</b> Construct and deliver formal and informal presentations considering the provided audience and purpose, including multimedia components when appropriate.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 18, 29 Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 6, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31, 36 Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 9, 18, 27, 32, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 13, 28</p>
<p><b>6.C.2</b> Present ideas using proper eye contact, body language, volume, and pronunciation in formal and informal presentations.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 18, 29 Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 6, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31, 36 Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 9, 18, 27, 32, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 13, 28</p>
<p><b>6.C.3</b> Standards C.3 and C.4 are K-5 standards only.</p>	<p>n/a</p>

## Collaboration

Learners will work effectively with their peers to accomplish a common goal or purpose.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.C.5</b> Prepare for discussions by finding relevant connections to the topic or text.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 23, 26            Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 21, 22, 25, 28, 36            Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 2, 9, 10, 12, 18, 24, 25, 26, 32            Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 8, 9, 13, 28, 32</p>
<p><b>6.C.6</b> Engage in a range of discussions and/or debates using active listening skills to be focused and present.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34            Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 21, 22, 25, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36            Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 2, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33            Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 8, 9, 11, 13, 28, 32</p>
<p><b>6.C.7</b> Collaborate cooperatively with peers to accomplish a common goal or purpose.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 6, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 23, 29, 30            Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 30, 36            Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 2, 9, 10, 12, 18, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33            Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 8, 9, 13, 28, 32</p>

## READING (R)

Learners will comprehend, analyze, and evaluate literary and informational texts in various formats, genres, and levels of complexity.

### Comprehension

Learners will read to understand various complex literary and informational texts.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.R.1</b> Standard R.1 is a K-5 standard only.</p>	n/a
<p><b>6.R.2</b> Comprehend a variety of texts while developing inferences and providing supportive textual evidence.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 1, 1DD, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26DD, 27, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 1, 8, 29, 31, 32</p>
<p><b>6.R.3a</b> Summarize nonfiction texts objectively, including relevant details.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lesson 29</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 17, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 3, 4, 15, 26</p>
<p><b>6.R.3b</b> Summarize literary texts objectively, including relevant details.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 21, 23</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 3, 14DD</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.R.4</b> Determine main idea(s), claim(s), or theme(s) and provide supporting textual evidence.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 18, 21, 23, 27, 28, 29                      Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 28                      Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 5, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 28                      Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 2DD, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 30</p>
<p><b>6.R.5</b> Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative, denotative, and connotative meanings.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 1DD, 5, 5DD, 6, 6DD, 8, 8DD, 11, 15, 15DD, 16, 16DD, 18DD, 19DD, 20, 25, 25DD, 26DD, 27, 27DD                      Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 2, 2DD, 3DD, 5, 6DD, 7, 7DD, 8DD, 9DD, 10, 11DD, 14DD, 16DD, 24DD, 25, 28, 29, 32                      Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 1DD, 2DD, 3, 3DD, 4DD, 5, 6DD, 7, 7DD, 9, 11DD, 12DD, 13DD, 14DD, 16, 16DD, 22DD, 25DD, 28, 29DD, 32DD, 33, 33DD                      Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2DD, 3, 3DD, 4, 4DD, 5, 6, 7DD, 8, 9, 9DD, 10DD, 11, 13, 13DD, 14, 15DD, 16, 16DD, 18DD, 20, 21DD, 23DD, 24, 24DD, 25DD, 26DD, 28DD, 30DD</p>

## Text Analysis

Learners will analyze, interpret, and evaluate complex literary and informational texts that include a wide variety of genres and formats.

<p><b>6.R.6</b> Describe how a paragraph, chapter, stanza, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of ideas.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 25, 26, 28                      Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 29, 30, 34, 36                      Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 3, 5, 9, 17, 22, 26                      Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 2, 7, 15, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26</p>
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<p><b>6.R.7</b> Describe how an author uses figurative language and specific word choice to affect meaning in a text (See Appendix A for suggested terminology).</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 4, 5DD, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 14DD, 19, 19DD, 20, 22, 23, 26, 26DD, 27, 27DD</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 10DD, 11, 11DD, 12, 13, 14, 16, 16DD, 21, 22, 22DD, 23DD, 25, 29, 34, 35</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 2DD, 3, 4, 5, 7, 7DD, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12DD, 14DD</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 5DD, 9DD, 21</p>
<p><b>6.R.8</b> Analyze a variety of fiction texts using textual evidence for support.</p>	<p>Grade 6 Modules 1-4</p> <p>Wit &amp; Wisdom considers this standard a Continuing Standard. Because it is fundamental to the learning design, it is addressed continually across all lessons and modules.</p>
<p><b>6.R.8a</b> Describe how characters and the plot develop over the course of a text.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 36</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15</p>
<p><b>6.R.8b</b> Identify the point of view and describe how it affects the story.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lesson 24</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 8, 10, 11, 15, 20</p>
<p><b>6.R.8c</b> Describe how multiple works or genres address the same topic.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 11DD</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 21, 22, 23, 24, 25</p>
<p><b>6.R.8d</b> Describe how an author’s background and/or the time period affects the telling of a story.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 16, 19, 27, 28, 30</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 27</p>



<p><b>6.R.9</b> Analyze a variety of nonfiction texts using textual evidence for support.</p>	<p>Grade 6 Modules 1-4 <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> considers this standard a Continuing Standard. Because it is fundamental to the learning design, it is addressed continually across all lessons and modules.</p>
<p><b>6.R.9a</b> Identify the author’s point of view and purpose and describe how it influences the meaning of the text.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 6, 7, 9, 10 Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 16, 19, 21, 27, 27DD, 28, 30, 31 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17DD, 27</p>
<p><b>6.R.9b</b> Describe how various authors present information on similar topics.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 6, 7, 9, 10 Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 21, 27, 27DD, 30, 31 Grade 6, Module 4, Lesson 17DD</p>

## WRITING (W)

Learners will produce clear and coherent writing for various tasks, purposes, audiences, and formats.

### Text Types and Structure

Learners will engage in the writing process and produce a variety of texts determined to address different audiences and purposes.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.W.1</b> Produce clear writing organized according to the task, purpose, and audience.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 5, 10, 11, 16, 20, 20DD, 21, 22DD, 23DD, 24DD, 25, 29, 30DD, 31, 32, 32DD, 33, 33DD, 34, 34DD</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 9, 18, 27, 29, 32, 33, 34, 34DD, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 8, 15, 19, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 6, 12, 22, 27, 29</p>
<p><b>6.W.2</b> Write using a clear organizational structure incorporating an introduction, transitions, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion appropriate to the task.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 16, 19, 24, 25, 29</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 20, 21, 27, 31, 32, 33</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 6, 7, 13, 16, 18, 19, 33, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lesson 22, 27</p>
<p><b>6.W.3</b> Write using informative/explanatory techniques to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information utilizing different mediums when appropriate.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 2DD, 3, 4, 6, 7, 7DD, 8, 10, 11, 12DD, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 23DD, 24, 24DD, 25, 29, 30DD, 32DD, 33DD, 34</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 15DD, 23DD, 27, 31, 34DD, 35DD</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 8, 16, 19, 28, 31</p> <p>Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.W.4</b> Write using argumentative techniques to develop claims using supporting evidence and logical reasoning.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 6, 7, 13, 18, 35, 37DD</p>
<p><b>6.W.5</b> Write using narrative techniques to develop real or imagined experiences or events using well-chosen details and structured event sequences.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 2DD, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 27, 31, 32, 33                      Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 7, 8, 15DD, 23DD, 27, 31, 32, 34DD                      Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 33, 36                      Grade 6, Module 4, Lesson 6</p>

### Writing Process and Craft

Learners will develop, strengthen, and produce writing by planning, drafting, revising, editing, and rewriting.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.W.6</b> Develop and strengthen writing by planning, drafting, revising, and editing to provide clarity to the audience.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 5, 10, 11, 16, 20, 20DD, 21, 22DD, 23DD, 24DD, 25, 29, 30DD, 31, 32, 32DD, 33, 33DD, 34, 34DD                      Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 9, 18, 27, 29, 32, 33, 34, 34DD, 35, 36                      Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 8, 15, 19, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38                      Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 6, 12, 22, 27, 29</p>
<p><b>6.W.7</b> Produce writing that uses intentional word choice and voice to match the writing purpose.</p>	<p>Grade 5, Module 2, Lesson 32DD                      Grade 5, Module 4, Lessons 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 34</p>

## Language Usage (L)

Learners will integrate appropriate language and style to ensure effective readability in writing.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.L.1</b> Apply language knowledge for a specific task, purpose, intention, and audience, resolving issues of usage as needed.</p>	<p>See 6.L.1a-d below.</p>
<p><b>6.L.1a</b> Generate simple, compound, and complex sentences.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 15</p>
<p><b>6.L.1b</b> Recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and run-ons.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 30DD</p>
<p><b>6.L.1c</b> Use varying forms of punctuation accurately.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 25DD, 27DD, 28DD, 31DD, 32DD, 33DD, 34DD, 35DD</p>
<p><b>6.L.1d</b> Follow standard grammar conventions mastered in previous grades.</p>	<p>Grade 6 Modules 1-4 <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i> considers this standard a Continuing Standard. Because it is fundamental to the learning design, it is addressed continually across all lessons and modules.</p>

## INQUIRY AND RESEARCH (IR)

Learners will pose and revise complex questions, identify and connect pertinent information, plan and prepare an inquiry process, and arrive at a plausible conclusion or solution.

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.IR.1</b> Develop a research question based on a given topic, problem, or need.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 27, 33, 35, 37, 38</p>
<p><b>6.IR.2</b> Locate relevant information from a provided set of credible sources.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26</p>
<p><b>6.IR.3</b> Organize main concepts from provided sources using a given notetaking strategy.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 1, Lessons 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 Grade 6, Module 2, Lessons 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 36 Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 38 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 17, 22, 25, 27, 30</p>
<p><b>6.IR.4</b> Analyze information from credible sources considering multiple perspectives.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26</p>
<p><b>6.IR.5</b> Integrate information from sources using a standardized format.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit &amp; Wisdom</i>
<p><b>6.IR.5a</b> Reference sources when quoting, paraphrasing, and/or summarizing to avoid plagiarism.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26</p>
<p><b>6.IR.5b</b> Generate a citation/bibliography page using a standardized format.</p>	<p>Grade 6, Module 3, Lessons 20, 33 Grade 6, Module 4, Lessons 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26</p>