



**WIT &
WISDOM®**

Curiosity, Inquiry, Knowledge

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

GRADE 8 | 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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.C.1 Construct and deliver formal and informal presentations considering the audience and purpose, including multimedia components when appropriate.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 17, 28 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32</p>
<p>8.C.2 Present ideas using proper eye contact, body language, volume, and pronunciation in formal and informal presentations.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 33 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 26, 29 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 24, 33</p>
<p>8.C.3 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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.C.5 Prepare for discussions by finding relevant and specific connections to the topic or text.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15, 20, 27 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 24, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 11, 26 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 9</p>
<p>8.C.6 Engage in a range of discussions and/or debates.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 4, 9, 15, 18, 19, 20, 27 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 33, 34 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 11, 18, 26, 32 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 33</p>
<p>8.C.6a Use active listening skills to stay focused and present.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15, 20, 27 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 24, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 11, 26, 32 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 24</p>
<p>8.C.6b Reference others' ideas and/or connections to a text. c. Synthesize texts.</p>	<p><i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses this standard in Grade 7. Grade 7, Module 1, Lesson 7 Grade 7, Module 2, Lesson 30 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 29, 37 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 31</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.C.7 Collaborate cooperatively with peers to accomplish a common goal or purpose.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 15, 20, 27 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 24, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 11 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 24</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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.R.1 Standard R.1 is a K-5 standard only.</p>	<p>n/a</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.R.2 Comprehend a variety of texts while developing inferences and providing relevant textual evidence and reasoning.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, 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, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24</p>
<p>8.R.3a Summarize and/or paraphrase nonfiction texts objectively, including relevant details and avoiding unnecessary information.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 23, 24, 25, 30</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 2, 5, 31</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 13</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 5, 16, 17, 19, 23</p>
<p>8.R.3b Summarize and/or paraphrase literary texts objectively, including relevant details and avoiding unnecessary information.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 2, 19, 29</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 23</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 20, 23, 30</p>
<p>8.R.4 Determine a main idea(s), claim(s), or theme(s) and provide relevant textual evidence and supportive reasoning.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 13DD, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 29, 29DD, 30</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.R.5 Determine the meaning and purpose of words and phrases as they contribute to the text, including figurative, denotative, and connotative meanings.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 3DD, 4, 4DD, 5, 10, 11, 11DD, 12, 12DD, 13DD, 14, 15, 15DD, 16, 21, 22, 23, 23DD, 24, 24DD, 25, 27DD, 29, 29DD, 32DD, 33DD</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 1DD, 2, 2DD, 3, 4, 4DD, 6, 6DD, 7DD, 8, 8DD, 9, 10, 10DD, 11, 11DD, 12, 12DD, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 18DD, 19, 20, 20DD, 22, 22DD, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 29DD, 30, 30DD, 31, 32, 34, 34DD, 35, 36</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 2, 2DD, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6DD, 7, 7DD, 8, 9, 9DD, 10, 10DD, 11, 11DD, 12, 12DD, 14, 14DD, 15DD, 18, 18DD, 19DD, 20, 20DD, 21, 21DD, 22, 22DD, 23, 24DD, 28, 29, 30, 30DD, 33DD</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2, 2DD, 3, 3DD, 4, 4DD, 5, 6, 7, 9DD, 10, 10DD, 11, 12, 12DD, 13, 15, 15DD, 17, 17DD, 18DD, 19, 19DD, 20, 20DD, 21, 21DD, 22, 24, 24DD, 25, 28DD, 29DD, 30, 30DD, 31DD, 32DD</p>

Text Analysis

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

<p>8.R.6 Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how sections, paragraphs, stanzas, and/or particular sentences contribute to the development of ideas and the overall purpose of the text.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, 32</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1, 3, 9, 26</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1, 14, 19, 20, 21</p>
<p>8.R.7 Analyze how an author uses figurative language and specific word choice to affect the meaning and tone. (See Appendix A for suggested terminology.)</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 4, 8DD, 21DD</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 9DD, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 29</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 4DD, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 20, 20DD, 22, 28, 29, 30</p> <p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 18, 20, 22, 5DD, 6DD, 11DD</p>

<p>8.R.8 Analyze a variety of fiction texts using textual evidence for support.</p>	<p>Grade 8 Modules 1-4 <i>Wit & 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>8.R.8a Analyze how the characters and plot develop over the course of a text, interact with other elements, and advance the plot or develop the theme(s).</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 29 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29</p>
<p>8.R.8b Analyze how a story’s point of view affects the text’s overall meaning.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 10 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29</p>
<p>8.R.8c Analyze how multiple works or genres address the same topic.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 21, 22, 25, 26, 34 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 18</p>
<p>8.R.8d Analyze how an author’s background, environment, time period, or culture affects the telling of a story.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 24 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 12, 14 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24</p>
<p>8.R.9 Analyze a variety of nonfiction texts using textual evidence for support.</p>	<p>Grade 8 Modules 1-4 <i>Wit & 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>8.R.9a Analyze how an author’s point of view influences the purpose of the text.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 24 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 12, 14 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 24</p>
<p>8.R.9b Analyze multiple texts comparing how the authors present information about a similar topic.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 5, 20, 23, 24</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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.W.1 Produce clear and coherent writing organized logically according to the task, purpose, and audience.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 7, 21, 31, 32 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 5, 16, 32, 37 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 5, 36 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 8, 27, 28</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.W.2 Write using a clear organizational structure incorporating an introduction, transitions, body paragraph(s), and a conclusion appropriate to the task.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 12, 13, 14, 17, 29 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 16, 25, 26, 36, 37 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 12</p>
<p>8.W.3 Write using informative/explanatory techniques to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information utilizing different mediums when appropriate.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 16, 18, 28 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 5, 6, 8, 16, 27 Grade 8, Module 4, Lesson 12</p>
<p>8.W.4 Write using argumentative techniques to develop claims and counterclaims using supporting evidence and logical reasoning.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35</p>
<p>8.W.5 Write using narrative techniques to develop real or imagined experiences or events using well-chosen details and structured event sequences.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 21, 29, 31 Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 3, 14, 16</p> <p><i>Wit & Wisdom</i> also addresses this standard in Grade 7. Grade 7, Module 1, Lessons 28, 30 Grade 7, Module 2, Lessons 11DD, 12DD, 18DD, 24DD, 26DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 16</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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.W.6 Develop and strengthen writing by planning, drafting, revising, and editing to address specific purposes for the genre and audience.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 10, 11, 17, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 Grade 8, Module 2, Lessons 1DD, 8, 16, 21DD, 23DD, 24DD, 25, 25DD, 26, 26DD, 32, 34, 37, 37DD Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 10, 24, 26, 30DD, 31, 31DD, 32DD, 33, 35, 36, 35DD, 36DD Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 16, 26, 26DD, 27, 27DD, 31</p>
<p>8.W.7 Produce writing that uses intentional word choice and voice to match the writing purpose.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33 Grade 8, Module 3, Lesson 28 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 9, 10, 1 29, 30, 31, 32</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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.L.1 Apply language knowledge for specific tasks, purposes, intentions, and audience, resolving usage issues as needed.</p>	<p>See 8.L.1a-d below.</p>
<p>8.L.1a Use simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to add variety and interest.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 10DD, 14DD, 25DD, 26DD, 28DD</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.L.1b Recognize and correct inappropriate fragments and run-ons.</p>	<p><i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses this standard in Grade 7 Grade 7, Module 1, Lessons 18DD, 19DD, 22DD, 30DD, 34DD Grade 7, Module 2, Lessons 20DD, 21, 23DD, 26DD Grade 7, Module 3, Lessons 21, 23DD, 24DD, 27DD, 28DD, 30, 30DD, 33, 35, 36DD, 37DD</p>
<p>8.L.1c Use varying forms of punctuation accurately.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lessons 19DD</p>
<p>8.L.1d Follow standard grammar conventions mastered in previous grades.</p>	<p>Grade 8 Modules 1-4 <i>Wit & 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 & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.IR.1 Develop research questions based on self-generated topics, problems, or needs.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 1 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 8 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 33</p>

North Dakota Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Wit & Wisdom</i>
<p>8.IR.2 Gather and interpret relevant information for a variety of purposes.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 2, Lesson 1 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 1, 8 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 3, 5, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33</p>
<p>8.IR.3 Organize main concepts from a variety of sources using multiple notetaking strategies.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 1, Lesson 16 Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34</p>
<p>8.IR.4 Analyze the credibility of a source based on bias, perspective, and purpose.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 13, 15, 24</p>
<p>8.IR.5 Integrate information from sources using a standardized format.</p>	<p>Grade 8, Module 3, Lessons 4 Grade 8, Module 4, Lessons 10, 15, 16</p>
<p>8.IR.5a Reference sources, including in-text citations, when quoting, paraphrasing, and/or summarizing to avoid plagiarism.</p>	<p><i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses this standard in Grade 7. Grade 7, Module 4, Lessons 10, 11, 27, 33, 35, 36</p>
<p>8.IR.5b Generate a citation/bibliography page using a standardized format.</p>	<p><i>Wit & Wisdom</i> addresses this standard in Grade 7. Grade 7, Module 2, Lessons 2, 16 Grade 7, Module 4, Lessons 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 25DD, 26, 26DD, 27, 27DD, 33, 34, 35, 36</p>