

MODULE 1

SECOND GRADE

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Your child's class will use Wit & Wisdom as our English Language Arts curriculum. By reading and responding to excellent fiction and nonfiction, your student will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.

A SEASON OF CHANGE



In this first module, *A Season of Change*, we will study how the world changes every season. We will explore the colors and changes in the seasons. We will also look at paintings of rainy, sunny, and snowy land. We will discover how change affects us all.

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THESE BOOKS:



Nonfiction Picture Books

- *How Do You Know It's Fall?* by Lisa M. Herrington
- *Why Do Leaves Change Color?* by Betsy Maestro

Fiction Picture Books

- *The Little Yellow Leaf* by Carin Berger
- *A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni
- *Sky Tree* by Thomas Locker

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THIS POEM:



- "[Weather](#)" by Eve Merriam

OUR CLASS WILL
LOOK AT THESE
PAINTINGS:



- [Autumn Landscape](#) by Maurice de Vlaminck
- [Bathers at Asnières](#) by Georges Seurat
- [Hunters in the Snow](#), Pieter Bruegel the Elder
- [Paris Street, Rainy Day](#), Gustave Caillebotte

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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**OUR CLASS WILL
ASK THESE
QUESTIONS:**



- In the poem, "Weather," what is changing?
- How does fall weather impact people and nature?
- How does the Little Yellow Leaf change?
- How does the chameleon change?
- How does weather impact leaves in fall?
- How does Sky Tree show the cycle of seasons?
- How does change impact people and nature?

VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word. They should also know how to use each word in a sentence:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| • Uncurl | • Huddle |
| • Soar | • Disappear |
| • Change | • Migrate |
| • Separate | • Observe |
| • Usual | • Contents |
| • Flick | • Open |
| • Survive | • Shape |



PRACTICING AT HOME

WRITING, TALKING AND READING

Snapshot: In this first module, A Season of Change, your child will learn how the world changes every season and how change affects us all.

SECOND GRADE MODULE 1: A SEASON OF CHANGE

YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

At the [end of this unit](#), your child will work this goal:

Write a paragraph on how changes in weather impact plants or animals in the fall.

- The paragraph will include:
 - **topic statement** (explains what is being written about),
 - **evidence** (facts and details from more than one place)
 - **conclusion** (summarizes what was written).
- Your child will use an [evidence organizer](#) to include facts and details from at least two sources.
- Your child will practice writing the paragraph and will revise their draft based on their classmates' feedback.

TRY THESE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

PHONICS:

Your child is learning lots of phonics skills to help them become a strong reader. Please try this activity to help them with what they are learning in school:

Practicing Blends and Digraph Blends

Your child is working on practicing blends (such as br in bring) and digraph blends (such as **ch** in **chin**). Ask your child's teacher what blends and digraph blends they are working on.

Remember, you can try these activities any time. Do as much or as little as your time allows. You can do **Let's Talk** while running errands or cooking dinner.

Check out [mClass Home Connect](#) for more great activities linked to your child's learning!

Step 1: Write a list of 5-10 words that have blends or digraph blends (Tip: Find a [list here](#)).

- Example:
 - went
 - shrub
 - gust



Step 2: Have your child read each sentence.

- Example:
 - went went
 - shrub shrub
 - gust gust

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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LET'S TALK:

Talking with your child about how their day went. Help them connect what they learned in school with their life.

Ask your child:

- What is your favorite season and why?
- You learned that the leaves change colors in the fall. If you had to pick just one, what is your favorite fall leaf color? Why do you think leaves change colors in the fall?
- Changes happen every season. It is fall now, how do you think you will change by the time summer comes around?



REMINDERS

- Ask your child's teacher for copies of their end of unit tasks
- Ask your child's teacher for the mClass Home Connect Letter
- Ask your child's teacher what reading skills they need more support with
- Watch for your child's report card
- Schedule your parent teacher conference
- Check the City Schools calendar each week for important dates/reminders

WRITING:

Your child is learning how to write and express themselves and what they have learned. You can try this activity at home:

Wondering and Imagining About the Seasons

Your child is learning about seasons and change. It is important that they wonder, imagine and think creatively.

- **Step 1:** Have your child pick a season to write about (Tip: you can use this [writing paper](#)).
- **Step 2:** Have your child imagine that the season is a character. For example, the summer is a superhero that can warm up anywhere they go and has a sun on their cape.
- **Step 3:** Have your child write a paragraph (3-4 sentences) and draw their character.



Free Places to Explore and Learn Online

Walters Art Museum: Visit [here](#) to explore
Baltimore Museum of Art: Visit [here](#) to explore.
(If you want to go to the BMA, you will need to reserve a time.)



RESOURCES

Want to read some books about this unit at home?

Here are some suggestions:

- *The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *Poppleton in Winter* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Frog and Toad All Year* by Arnold Lobel
- *Henry and Mudge in the Sparkle Days* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Snow* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner

TIP: Find these books for free online at the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#). You can ask the library to have them ready for you to pick up. Or, you can ask the library to mail books to you.

MODULE 2

SECOND GRADE

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. Your students will study excellent writing to build their knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature.



AMERICAN WEST

In this module, The American West, we will study the struggle of early settlers and pioneers. By analyzing texts and art, students will answer: What was life like in the West for early Americans?

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THESE BOOKS:



Nonfiction Picture Books

- *Journey of a Pioneer* by Patricia J. Murphy
- *Plains Indians* by Andrew Santella
- *The Buffalo Are Back* by Jean Craighead George

Fiction Picture Books

- *John Henry* by Julius Lester
- *John Henry: An American Legend* by Ezra Jack Keats
- *Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg
- *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Story of Johnny Appleseed* by Aliki

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THIS POEM:

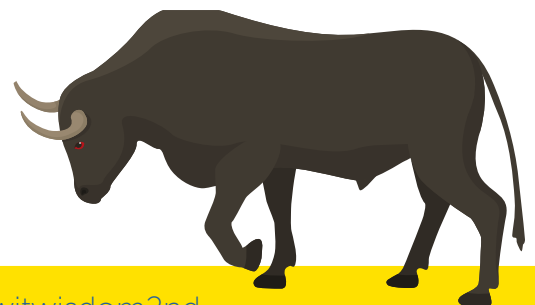
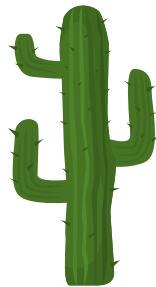


- "[Buffalo Dusk](#)" by Carl Sandburg

OUR CLASS WILL
VIEW THIS PAINTING:



- [Among the Sierra Nevada](#), California by Albert Bierstadt

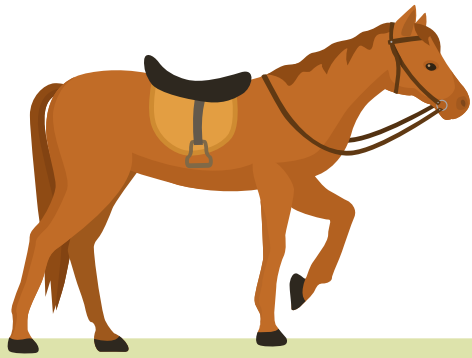


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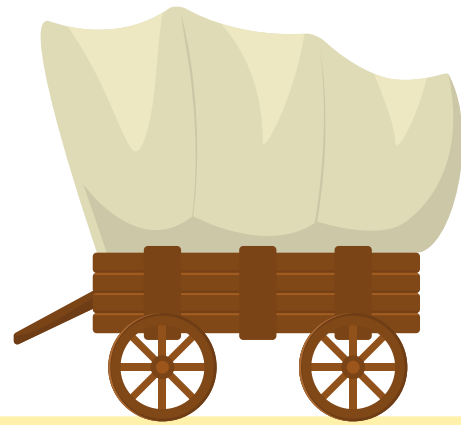
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**OUR CLASS WILL
ASK THESE
QUESTIONS:**



- How did the actions of American Indians and early Americans impact the prairie in the American West?
- What was life like for Plains Indians in the early American West?
- What was life like for pioneers in the early American West?
- What life lesson can we learn from the story of Bluebonnet?
- What life lesson can we learn from the story of Johnny Appleseed?
- How do different authors tell the story of John Henry's life?



VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word and how to use it in a sentence:

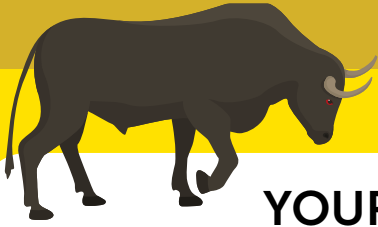
- Roam
- Wobble
- Nomadic
- Distant
- Untamed
- Tragedy
- Murmur
- Possession
- Orchard
- Shelter
- Impact
- Settled
- Valued
- Sacrifice
- Tough



PRACTICING AT HOME

WRITING, TALKING AND READING

Snapshot: In this module, The American West, your child will learn about the struggles of early settlers and pioneers.



SECOND GRADE MODULE 2: AMERICAN WEST

YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

Your child will work on this [learning goal](#):

Write an [informative paragraph](#) comparing the life of one legendary person (either Johnny Appleseed or John Henry) to real-life pioneers and explaining the differences.

The informative paragraph will include:

- **Topic statement** (essential idea of the paragraph)
- **Two pieces of evidence** (facts that support the essential idea)
- **Concluding sentence** (summarizes the important ideas already stated)



TRY THESE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

PHONICS:

Your child is learning phonics skills to become a strong reader. This activity will help them practice their phonics skills:

Fill in the Word

Step 1: Look at the set of sentences below. Have your child read the sentence saying "blank" where the word is left out.

Step 2: Have your child pick the correct word from the list in the Word Bank to complete the sentence.

Step 3: Have your child reread the complete sentence.

For more practice, create your own word bank and fill in the blank sentences.

Remember, you can try these activities any time. Do as much or as little as your time allows. You can do **Let's Talk** while running errands or cooking dinner.

Check out [mClass Home Connect](#) for more great activities linked to your child's learning!

Fill in the words below:

1. Bill will win at_____.
2. The dog will _____ the path.
3. I had a _____of milk
4. Did dad_____ at Tom?
5. Jeff felt the _____ of the wind.
6. Deb had a rip in her _____.
7. The tot is on the _____.
8. The bug _____ on my leg.
9. The _____ had a big test in math.
10. Jess got her _____ off the bed.

Word Bank

stuff dress class chess stung
cross swing glass yell chill

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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LET'S TALK:

Here is a way to talk with your child about what they are learning.

Ask your child:

- If you could go back in time and talk to American Indians about their life, what would you ask them?
- If you took a trip to the American West, where would you want to visit? Why? What would you want to learn?
- Do you think there are any similarities between being a pioneer long ago and life now?

WRITING:

Your child is learning to write, so they can express themselves and show what they have learned. Please try this writing activity at home:

Getting ready for a new journey

- **Step 1:** Ask your child, "Imagine that you are preparing to go on a journey to a new land. You have never been there and have no idea what it looks or feels like. What would you pack?"
- **Step 2:** Have your child make a packing list for their journey. Help them get started by asking:
 - Will you take any devices?
 - What kind of clothes will you need?
 - What challenges will you have on your journey?

Tip: Use writing paper that your child uses in school. You can find them [here and print](#).

REMINDERS

- Ask your child's teacher
 - For copies of their end of module tasks.
 - For their Amplify mClass Home Connect Letter.
 - What reading skills your child is working on.
- Watch for your child's report card and schedule your parent/teacher conference.
- Check the City Schools [calendar](#) each week for important dates/reminders.

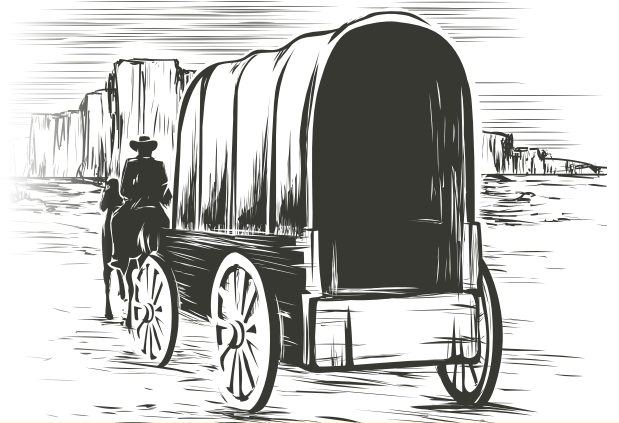
RESOURCES

Want to read some books with your child at home?

These books will help them learn more about the American West

- *New York's Bravest* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Cowboys and Cowgirls: Yippee-Yay!* by Gail Gibbons
- *Locomotive* by Brian Floca
- *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Rough-Faced Girl* by Rafe Martin

TIP: Find these books for free online at the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#). You can ask the library to have them ready for you to pick up. Or, you can ask the library to mail books to you.



Free Places to Explore and Learn Online

Walters Art Museum: Visit [here](#) to explore

Baltimore Museum of Art: Visit [here](#) to explore.

Get detailed information for each grade [here](#) on works of art that support the curriculum

MODULE 3

SECOND GRADE

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Your child's class will use Wit & Wisdom as our English Language Arts curriculum. Your student will read and respond to excellent fiction and nonfiction writing. They will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.



CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES

The third module is about Civil Rights Heroes. We will study strong and brave people who fought injustice. We will carefully read books and poems about Civil Rights. We will also explore art and think about how people respond to injustice.

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THESE BOOKS:



Nonfiction Picture Books

- *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the March on Washington* by Frances E. Ruffin
- *I Have a Dream*, by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with paintings by Kadir Nelson
- *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story* by Ruby Bridges
- *The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles
- *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh

Poem

- "Words Like Freedom" by Langston Hughes
- "Dreams" by Langston Hughes

OUR CLASS WILL
LOOK AT THIS
PHOTOGRAPH:



- "[Selma to Montgomery March, Alabama, 1965](#)" by James Karales

OUR CLASS WILL
WATCH THIS VIDEO:



- "[Ruby Bridges Interview](#)"
- "[Civil Rights – Ruby Bridges](#)"
- "[The Man Who Changed America](#)"
- "[Sylvia Mendez and Sandra Mendez Duran](#)"
- "[The Freedom Singers Perform at the White House](#)"

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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OUR CLASS WILL
**LISTEN TO
THESE SONGS:**



- ["Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around"](#)
- ["This Little Light of Mine"](#)
- ["America \(My Country Tis of Thee\)"](#)

VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word and how to use it in a sentence:

march

protest

equally

response

impact

speech

states

nation

repetition

freedom

home

dream

faith

liberty

reject

improve

convince

order

hopeful

anxious

irritated

OUR CLASS WILL
**READ THESE
ARTICLES:**

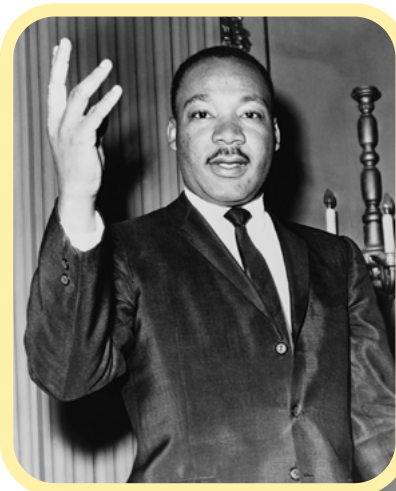


- "Different Voices" by Anna Gratz Cockerille
- "When Peace Met Power" by Laura Helweg

OUR CLASS WILL
**ASK THESE
QUESTIONS:**



- What injustices did people face before the Civil Rights Act of 1964?
- What was Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream for the world?
- How did Ruby Bridges respond to injustice?
- How did the Mendez family respond to injustice?



PRACTICING AT HOME

Writing, Talking and Reading

Snapshot: In this third module, Civil Rights Heroes, your child will study strong and brave people who fought injustice.

MODULE 3:
CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES

SECOND GRADE



YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

Write an [exploded moment](#) narrative. An exploded moment narrative describes in slow motion a step by step picture for the reader. The narrative will include point of view, details about thoughts and feelings, action, and use of adjectives and adverbs.

The narrative will include:

- **CHARACTERS** (who is the story about)
- **SETTING** (when and where the story takes place)
- **PROBLEM** (the main character's challenge)
- **EVENT** (what happens)
- **RESOLUTION** (end of the problem)

AT HOME ACTIVITIES

PHONICS:

Your child is learning phonics skills, so they will become a strong reader. This activity will help them practice the phonics skills from their class.

Fill in the blank

- **Step 1:** Choose six words, for example: carpenter, porcupine, carton, number, morning, bakery and draw a box around them.
- **Step 2:** Come up with six sentences, but leave your selected words blank.
- **Step 3:** Have your child fill in the blank using the right words for the box of words you came up with.
- **Step 4:** Challenge! Make the words more difficult or have your child find six words in the dictionary and write sentences.

Example:

Carpenter, Porcupine, Carton,
Number, Morning, Bakery

- My dog was struck by _____ quills.
- The _____ of milk is on the shelf.
- The _____ made a bench.
- Ten is an even _____.
- The cake is from the _____.
- The bird sang in the _____.

Check out [mClass Home Connect](#)
for more great activities linked
to your child's learning!

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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LET'S TALK: Here is a way to talk with your child about what they are learning.

Ask your child:

- I know you have been learning about strong and brave people. Do you know anybody that is brave?
- Who do you think is brave?
- Have you ever felt like you had to be brave?
- Sometime kids fight injustice. What would you fight for?

WRITING:

Your child is learning to write. They will write to express themselves and show what they have learned. Please try this writing activity at home.

I am a Superhero!

Pretend that you are a superhero. Have your child write answers to the following questions:

- **Step 1:** Ask your child to imagine they are a superhero.
- **Step 2:** Have your child write a story about being a superhero. They could write sentences to answer the following questions:
 - What is your superpower?
 - What problem is your superhero solving in your community?
 - What does your superhero do to find a solution to the problem in your community?
 - What does your superhero think about?
 - How does your superhero feel?

RESOURCES

Want to read some books with your child at home?

These books will help them learn more about Civil Rights Heroes.

REMINDERS

- Ask your child's teacher
 - For copies of their end of module tasks.
 - For their Amplify mClass Home Connect Letter.
 - What reading skills your child is working on.
- Watch for your child's report card and schedule your parent/teacher conference.
- Check the [City Schools calendar](#) often for important dates/reminders.

Biography

- *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport
- *Heart on Fire: Susan B. Anthony Votes for President* by Ann Malaspina
- *Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader, Legend* by Justine & Ron Fuentes
- *I Have a Dream* by Martin Luther King, Jr

Historical Account

- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins* by Carole Boston Weatherford
- *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage* by Selina Alko

Picture Books

- *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* by Ellen Levine
- *Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass* by Dean Robbins
- *I Could Do That! Ester Morris Gets Women the Vote* by Linda Arms White
- *A is for Abigail* by Lynne Cheney
- *The Listeners* by Gloria Whelan

Want to learn more?

Click [here](#) to read an article about Baltimore City Schools' desegregation.

TIP: Find these books for free at your local

[Enoch Pratt Free Library!](#)

MODULE 4

SECOND GRADE

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

Your child's class will use Wit & Wisdom as our English Language Arts curriculum. By reading and responding to excellent fiction and nonfiction, your student will learn about key history, science, and literature topics.



GOOD EATING

Your child will learn about the digestive system and understand healthy food choices. By carefully reading books and viewing art, your student will answer: How does food nourish us?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

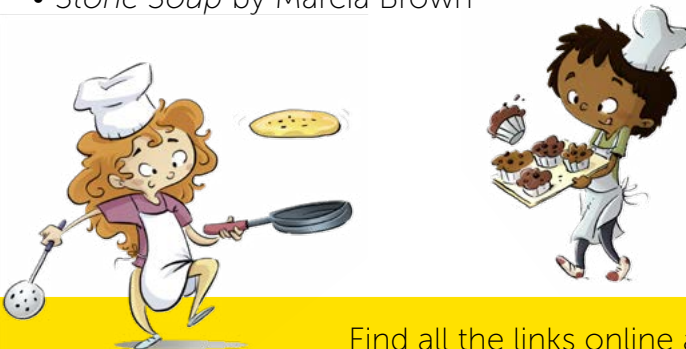


Nonfiction Picture Books

- *The Digestive System* by Christine Taylor-Butler
- *The Digestive System* by Jennifer Prior
- *Good Enough to Eat* by Lizzy Rockwell
- *The Vegetables We Eat* by Gail Gibbons

Fiction Picture Books

- *Bone Button Borscht* by Aubrey Davis
- *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown

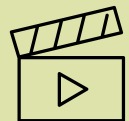


OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THESE WEBSITES:



- ["Eating Your A, B, C's..."](#) at Kids Discover

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THIS VIDEO:



- ["Food and Family"](#) with Nadine Burke
- ["Try Something New"](#) with Jamie Oliver
- ["Planting Seeds: The White House Garden and a Brooklyn School Farm"](#)
- ["Fruit Veggie Swag"](#)

Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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OUR CLASS WILL
**LOOK AT THESE
PAINTINGS:**



- [The Beaneater by Annibale Carracci](#)
- [Cakes by Wayne Thiebaud](#)
- [Two Cheeseburgers, with Everything \(Dual Hamburgers\) by Claes Oldenberg](#)



- “Can Milk Make You Happy?” by Faith Hickman Byrnie
- “Debate! Should Sugary Drinks Be Taxed?” from TIME for Kids



OUR CLASS WILL
**ASK THESE
QUESTIONS:**



- How can food nourish my body?
- How can food nourish a community?
- Where does nourishing food come from?
- How can I choose nourishing foods?



VOCABULARY

For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word and how to use it in a sentence:

- digest
- esophagus
- starches
- mucus
- belch
- gastric
- absorb
- trudge
- hobbled
- cram
- energy
- cooperate
- nourish
- nutrients
- signal

PRACTICING AT HOME

WRITING, TALKING AND READING

SECOND GRADE MODULE 4: GOOD EATING

Snapshot: In this fourth module, Good Eating, your child will learn about the digestive system and understand healthy food choices.

YOUR CHILD WILL WORK ON THIS LEARNING GOAL:

Write an [opinion paragraph](#) about a plate of food they have chosen to eat. Take part in a [Socratic Seminar](#) and share when they made a healthy food choice. A Socratic Seminar is a discussion, where the students talk and listen to each other about what they are learning.

The opinion paragraph will include:

- **Evidence** (facts)
- **Opinion** (thoughts and feelings)
- **Capitalization of character names**
- **Correct writing of lower and uppercase letters**

For the Socratic Seminar, your child will:

- Speak on a topic
- Form their own opinion on a topic
- Listen to understand and respect what others are saying
- Look at the speaker

AT HOME ACTIVITIES

PHONICS:

Your child is learning phonics skills, so they will become a strong reader. This activity will help them practice the phonics skills from their class.

Correct the sentences

In this activity, your child will correct misspelled words in a sentence.

- **Step 1:** Tell your child that the red words in the sentences below are not spelled correctly.
- **Step 2:** Have your child read each sentence.
- **Step 3:** Have your child add the proper punctuation to the sentence.
- **Step 4:** Have your child write the corrected word on the line.

For additional practice, make up your own sentences. You can find a [word list here](#).

Check out [mClass Home Connect](#) for more great activities linked to your child's learning!

1. The flowers should be in **blume** soon ____
2. What time did the **ruster** begin to crow ____
3. David quickly **outgrue** his snow boots ____
4. Is it wise to **argew** with the umpire ____
5. The boys will swim in the **pule** ____

Answer Key:

6. The flowers should be in **bloom** soon.
7. What time did the **rooster** begin to crow?
8. David quickly **outgrew** his snow boots.
9. Is it wise to **argue** with the umpire?
10. The boys will swim in the **pool**.



Find all the links online at <http://bit.ly/witwisdom2nd>



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LET'S TALK:

Here is a way to talk with your child about what they are learning.



Ask your child:

- What would you change about the breakfast or lunch menu at school?
- What can you tell me about the digestive system?
- If you could eat lunch with your favorite cartoon character, what would you eat together?
- What fruit would you grow if you had a fruit tree?
- The school year is almost over. What has been your favorite story of the year?

WRITING:

Your child is learning to write. They will write to express themselves and show what they have learned. Please try this writing activity at home.

Write a Restaurant Menu

Pretend that you are a superhero. Have your child write answers to the following questions:

- **Step 1:** Ask your child, "Imagine that you are opening up your own restaurant. What would you put on the menu?"
- **Step 2:** Have your child create a menu for their restaurant. You can help them get started by asking them:
 - Does your menu have fruit and vegetables?
 - Does your menu have dessert?
 - What kind of meals are on the menu?

Tip: Use writing paper that your child uses in school. You can find them [here and print](#).

REMINDERS

- Ask your child's teacher
 - For copies of their end of module tasks.
 - For their Amplify mClass Home Connect Letter.
 - What reading skills your child is working on.
- Watch for your child's report card and schedule your parent/teacher conference.
- Check the City Schools calendar often for important dates/reminders.
- Sign your child up for the [Enoch Pratt Summer Reading Program](#). Your child will get great book ideas and can win prizes.

RESOURCES

Want to read some books with your child at home? These books will help them learn more about Good Eating.

- *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola
- *A Moose Boosh: A Few Choice Words About Food* by Eric-Shabazz Larkin
- *The Seven Silly Eaters* by Mary Ann Hoberman
- *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
- *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto
- *Sopa de Frijoles: Bean Soup* by Jorge Argueta (This book is written in both English and Spanish)
- *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Your Digestive System* by Rebecca L. Johnson
- *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech
- *The Quest to Digest* by Mary K. Corcoran
- *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? The Story of Food* by Chris Butterworth
- *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table* by Pat Brisson

Free Places to Explore and Learn Art

- Walters Art Museum: Visit [here](#) for more information
- Baltimore Museum of Art: Visit [here](#) for more information
- Get detailed information for each grade [here](#) on works of art that support the curriculum