

**WIT &
WISDOM®**

Knowledge-Building English Language Arts



For a more in-depth view of *Wit & Wisdom*,
visit greatminds.org/english/witwisdom.

**GREAT
MINDS**

every child
is capable of
greatness



Research tells us that students develop literacy skills most effectively in the context of coherent, rigorous, and content-rich texts. That's why everything that happens in *Wit & Wisdom*® classrooms starts with exceptional texts, because content is the core of English language arts instruction.

Informed by the Science of Reading, *Wit & Wisdom* is a comprehensive, standards-based K–8 curriculum that helps students build reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and language skills while they deepen their knowledge of science, social studies, art, and more. Instead of using basal readers, each

Wit & Wisdom module centers on a careful balance of literary, informational, and fine art core texts that build student knowledge around the module's topic of focus. By providing a framework for inquiry and strategically revisiting essential topics throughout the curriculum, *Wit & Wisdom* helps students build rich layers of knowledge—and we know that the earlier students begin to build knowledge, the better they do academically in later years.

With *Wit & Wisdom*, students engage in productive struggle and all learners are empowered to tackle the rigor of grade-level content with confidence and joy.

At the Core of Wit & Wisdom

Building Skills While Fostering Knowledge Building

Through a rigorous learning design based on the Science of Reading, students gain content knowledge and an awareness of how to read, write, speak, and listen.

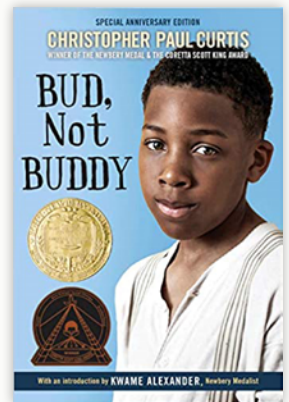
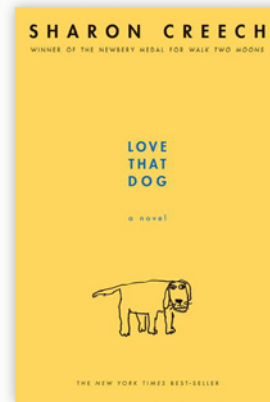
- With **a focus on depth, not breadth**, students dig deep into each module's topic, exploring literary, informational, and fine arts genres to create layers of knowledge that they will build on across lessons.
- With multiple entry points to new topics, lessons engage all students and address individual needs while honoring the unique lived experiences and funds of knowledge students bring to the classroom to help them **achieve grade-level success**.

Information-Rich Texts Anchor Student Learning

By reading information-rich books, not basals, students engage with authentic, complex, grade-level fiction and nonfiction texts, from the classics to newer works of literature. These texts are used daily to help students master essential English language arts skills.

- **Carefully sequenced literary and informational texts** are used to develop students' knowledge and skills in each module and provide the foundation for instruction in every module at each grade level.
- *Wit & Wisdom* includes **a thoughtful balance** of literary, informational, fine art, and multimedia texts. Fiction and nonfiction texts **include award winners, showcase diverse viewpoints, and represent varied genres**: essays, speeches, articles, interviews, memoirs, and poetry.
- **Volume of Reading** lists provide a set of supplementary titles related to the topics and genres presented in each module to encourage students' independent reading and extend their learning.

Pairing *Wit & Wisdom* with our *Geodes*® readables and an explicit, systematic foundational skills program supports evidence-based literacy practices. *Geodes* texts cultivate a deep learning experience, allowing students to practice their phonics and decoding skills while building enduring knowledge.



- Each text helps teachers put **Science of Reading research into action**.
- **Every book is at least 80 percent decodable**, so all students can put their phonics skills into practice.
- Written and illustrated by a talented group of authors and award-winning illustrators, ***Geodes* reflect a broad range of identities and diverse experiences**.
- Emerging readers can bring the learning home with the *My Geodes*® digital experience that gives students and their families access to all 192 *Geodes* titles as e-books.

Visit greatminds.org/geodes to learn more about *Geodes*.

At the Core of Wit & Wisdom

Building Literacy Through Art Integration

Wit & Wisdom students engage with significant works of art—including paintings, illustrations, prints, sculpture, architecture, and photographs—that provide diverse access points to a topic so learners at all levels can build strong literacy skills.

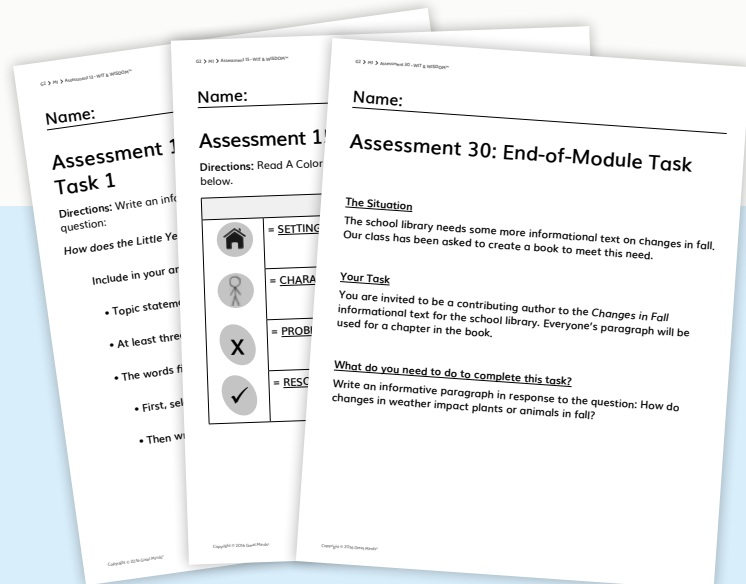
- Students who analyze fine art can **hone their observing, writing, speaking, and listening skills**—all without the hurdle of decoding written text.
- Through repeated exposure and rigorous questioning, **students deepen their knowledge** while making connections to written text and other works of art.
- Art provides an access point for all students, including students with dyslexia and multilingual learners, to engage in class discussions without barriers.



Multiple Opportunities to Monitor Students' Learning Progress

Curriculum-embedded assessments in *Wit & Wisdom* provide ongoing evidence of how deeply students understand what they are learning. Frequent and varied assessments are tied to module and lesson content and build toward the End-of-Module Task.

- Each module includes **formative and summative assessment opportunities**, including Checks for Understanding, the Focusing Question Task, the New-Read Assessment, the Socratic Seminar, and the End-of-Module Task.
- Assessment tasks are designed to **give students an opportunity to show what they can do** by applying their learning to solve academic, intellectual, and real-world problems.



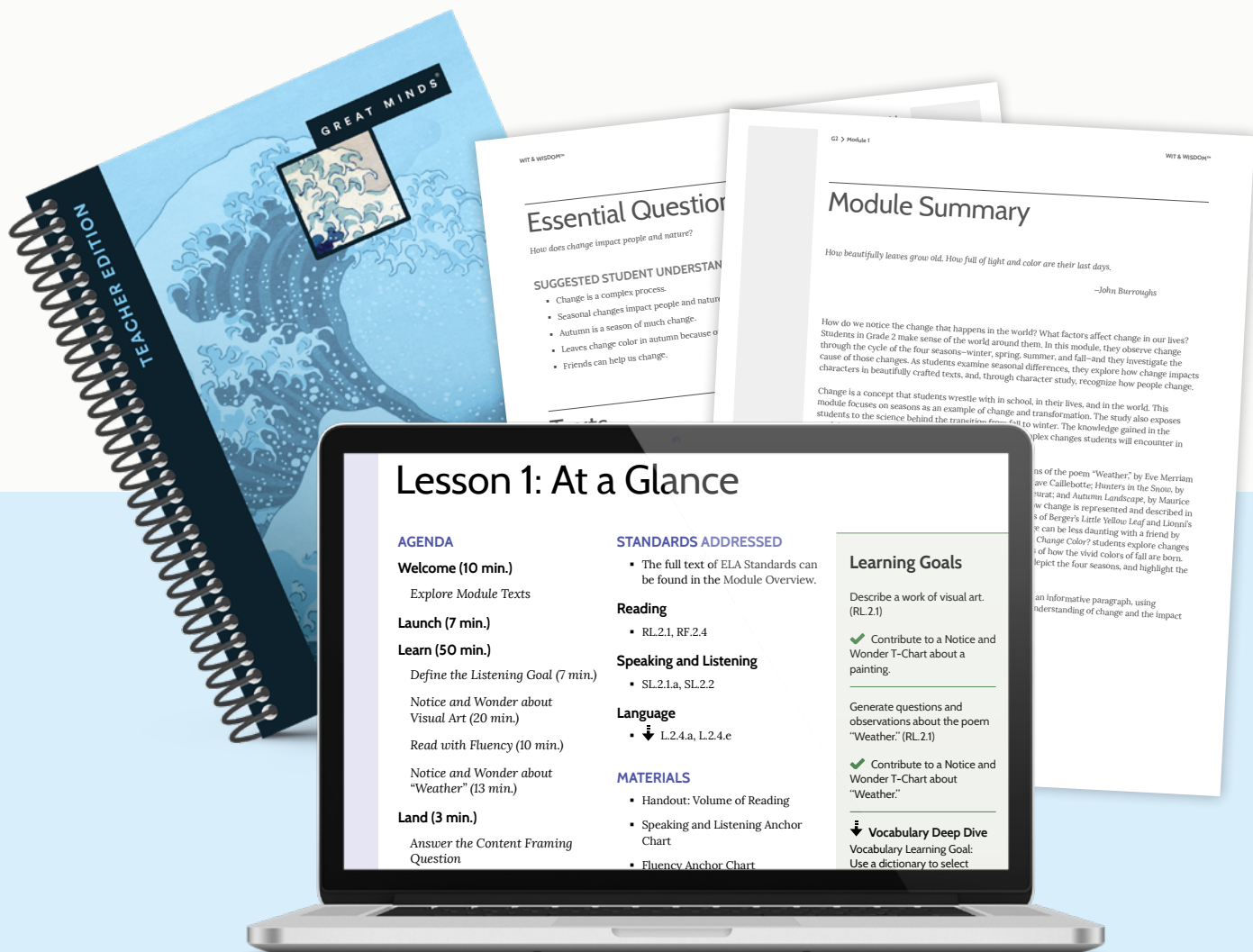
Visit greatminds.org/english/assessments to learn more about assessments.

Wit & Wisdom Print and Digital Resources

Teacher Edition

Available for each module and grade and in print and digitally, the Teacher Edition provides educators with critical information and guidance for classroom instruction, including just-in-time supports to help them hone their craft while delivering high-quality instruction to students. The Teacher Edition includes the following components:

- The **Module Overview** with the Module Summary, Essential Question, text list, Learning Goals, standards, Major Assessments, and the Module Map, an at-a-glance overview of the module
- **All 30–38 lessons for the module**, including the core lesson and Deep Dive, which integrate literacy strands to build students' English language arts skills and knowledge
- **Appendices to support successful implementation**, including resources to build knowledge of text complexity, vocabulary, teaching and learning, and assessments
- The complete **Teacher Edition in digital form** allows teachers to explore the overview, lesson sets, resources, and embedded instructional supports for each *Wit & Wisdom* module, and annotation features support ease of instructional preparation with the digital resource



Wit & Wisdom Print and Digital Resources

Student and Family Supports

Available for each module and each grade, student and family materials are designed to support students' learning in and outside of the classroom.

- **Student Edition workbooks** support student engagement and instruction with graphic organizers, evidence organizers, and other student materials.
- **Family Welcome Letters** in different languages can be distributed at the beginning of the school year to introduce families to *Wit & Wisdom*.
- **Wit & Wisdom Overview for Families** in English and Spanish offer a video walkthrough of the curriculum's learning design and components.
- **Family Literacy Night activities** are easy for teachers to implement and use to engage families by allowing them to take part in hands-on examples of what their child will be learning in the classroom.

Implementation Support Resources

Essential supports and instructional tools include resources such as:

- The **Implementation Guide**, which explains the components, philosophy, and learning design of the curriculum to help teachers, coaches, and leaders implement with fidelity
- **The Great Minds Humanities Video Library**, which provides short, on-demand videos designed to give teachers, leaders, and coaches introductory information about the curriculum and each module
- **Wit & Wisdom's Preparation Protocols**, which provide repeatable steps for effective module and lesson preparation and offer guidance on how to pace and scaffold instruction
- **Module 0**, which lays a foundation for learning through six abbreviated lessons that walk students through the Content Stages and Craft Stages, as well as the types of questions, practices, and instructional routines they encounter in Modules 1–4
- **Wit & Wisdom Lesson Slides**, which are comprehensive slides with key lesson content and images as well talking points for the teacher



Wit & Wisdom Print and Digital Resources

Wit & Wisdom Digital Assessments

Digital assessments are designed to help educators better gauge and meet their students' learning needs. A combination of automatically and manually scored items helps educators save valuable time. Reporting helps track student progress over time on assessments that are fully aligned to *Wit & Wisdom*.

Wit & Wisdom in Sync™

Created for hybrid or distance learning, this digital platform covers the same topics as our high-quality *Wit & Wisdom* curriculum and keeps learning moving forward even when students or teachers miss class. Adapted to support students anywhere, *Wit & Wisdom in Sync* includes daily video lessons and fillable PDFs of student handouts and fluency activities. Planning and preparation resources for teachers include the Learn Anywhere Plan, with a pacing guide for daily lessons, and *Wit & Wisdom* lesson slides that provide lesson-specific content for online and in-class instruction.



Enhanced Support for Multilingual Learners

Wit & Wisdom lessons are intentionally designed to deepen and accelerate learning for all students, including multilingual learners. With robust supports to enhance learning and instruction, *Wit & Wisdom* provides multiple entry points to new topics while honoring the unique lived experiences and funds of knowledge multilingual learners bring to the classroom.

Multilingual Learner Resources for Grade K–5

These research-aligned supports put the spotlight on existing lesson elements that specifically benefit multilingual learners in addition to providing lesson-specific supports for reading, writing, language, and speaking and listening instruction.

Materials for Multilingual Learners and Their Families

This packet of resources invites families and caregivers of multilingual students to participate in their learning. Supports include multilingual glossaries for each grade, Welcome Letters, and Family Tip Sheets in different languages.

Wit & Wisdom Prologue™ for Grades 6–8

For students who need additional language development support, previewing content and language in an English language arts lesson can make a world of difference. That is why we created *Prologue*, a resource that supports grades 6–8 multilingual learners and students with language-based disabilities by front-loading key content and language from specific *Wit & Wisdom* lessons.

Supporting Educators Through Knowledge-Rich Professional Learning

With proper support for educators, high-quality instructional materials can transform teaching and learning. Great Minds® is the exclusive provider of professional development written and delivered by the Humanities team.

- Professional development sessions are designed to ensure **strong initial implementation and sustained progress**.
- **Personalized coaching**, including modeling and observation, helps teachers improve implementation and helps leaders develop effective ways to support, understand, and evaluate day-to-day classroom practices.

Visit greatminds.org/english/professional-learning to learn more about professional learning.