Wit & Wisdom

Merrimack School District
Public Hearing
April 1, 2024

Shift to Structured Literacy in the MSD

- “We believe that ALL students deserve to learn to read and ALL teachers can learn to teach them!” - The Reading League
- Over the past two years, the Merrimack School District has made an intentional shift from balanced literacy to structured literacy.
- Replacing and implementing core programs that are research and evidence-based and aligned with the Science of Reading.
    - Heggerty
    - Fundations
    - Geodes
    - Spelling Connections
- Wit & Wisdom is the final component of this shift.





Science of Reading



Balanced Literacy

Science of Reading	Balanced Literacy
Belief that the code-based nature of reading needs to be explicitly unpacked for the reading novice, so that we are not leaving reading to chance.	Belief that reading is a meaning-based activity that is best acquired through immersion.
Teaching decoding as a skill	Teaching phonics as children make errors
Bottom up approach, starting with phonemes, and moving to graphemes to create whole words before moving to meaning.	Top down approach, starting with whole words and what would make sense. This approach begins with sight words and cueing instead of individual sounds and letters.
Diagnostic assessments (PAST, decoding assessments, etc) given to determine skill needs	DRA assessment given to determine a reading level
Using assessment to drive instruction	Using a leveled text to drive instruction
Sound wall as a spelling help with all 44 sounds represented	Word wall as a tool for spelling focusing on the 26 letters

What is Wit & Wisdom?

- Wit & Wisdom is a comprehensive, standards-based English language arts curriculum.
- It is crafted to help students develop the skills they need to be successful readers, exceptional writers, and effective communicators.
- Builds student content knowledge, as well as reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and language skills, in the context of complex, information rich, grade-level text.

WIT & WISDOM®

Why Do We Need a Knowledge Building Curriculum?

- Research shows that comprehensive, coherent literacy instruction must ensure that as students are learning to read they are also developing their reading comprehension, which includes building content knowledge.
- Wit & Wisdom ELA is recognized by the Knowledge Matters Campaign as one of only eight knowledge-building curricula crafted to ensure that students develop critical ELA skills while also building knowledge of the world.
- Wit & Wisdom has also received a top rating from independent reviewers, EdReports.

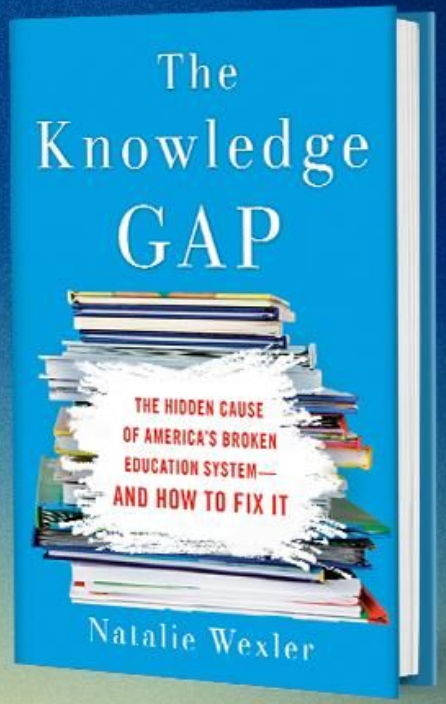




"The more knowledge a child starts with, the more likely she is to acquire yet more knowledge. She'll read more and understand and retain information better,

BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE, LIKE VELCRO, STICKS BEST TO OTHER RELATED KNOWLEDGE."

#KnowledgeGap



How Does Wit & Wisdom Fit in the MSD?

- Pairs seamlessly with our foundational skills programs of Fundations and Geodes
  - Geodes are aligned to the scope and sequence of Fundations
  - Geodes are produced by the same publisher as Wit & Wisdom

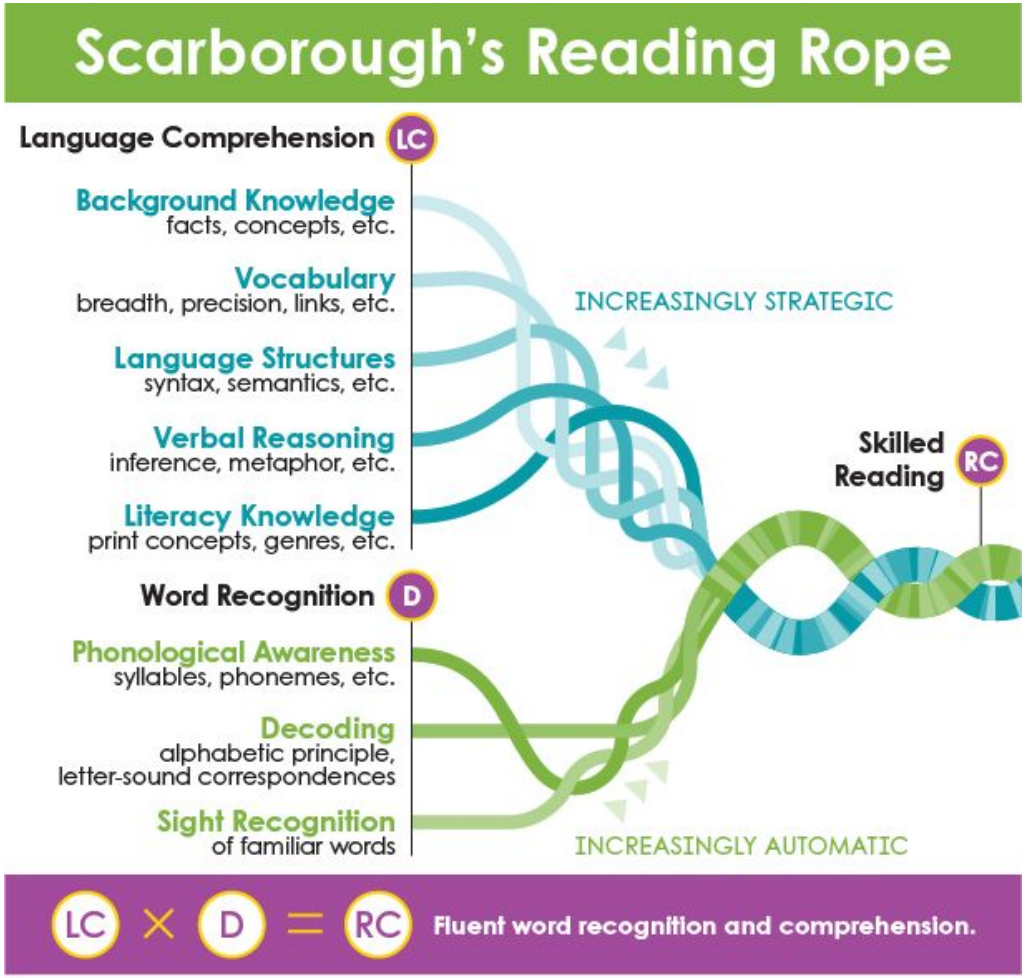


GEODES®

WIT & WISDOM®

Wit & Wisdom & Geodes will address LC

Heggerty, Fundations, Geodes, & Spelling Connections address D



This interpretation of the Reading Rope incorporates Gough & Tunmer's (1986) Simple View of Reading.

Wit & Wisdom Framework

- At Wit & Wisdom's core is a framework of strategic questions and instructional protocols designed to guide teachers and students through reading, writing, and speaking about exceptionally rich and diverse texts.
- Devotes 6-8 weeks to explore each topic in tightly crafted, multi-faceted lesson sequences.
- Discussions and activities are built into daily practice.
- Writing is text-based or text-inspired with clear instructional routines.
- High quality materials for teachers and students.



GREAT MINDS: WIT AND WISDOM KNOWLEDGE INVENTORY (K-8)

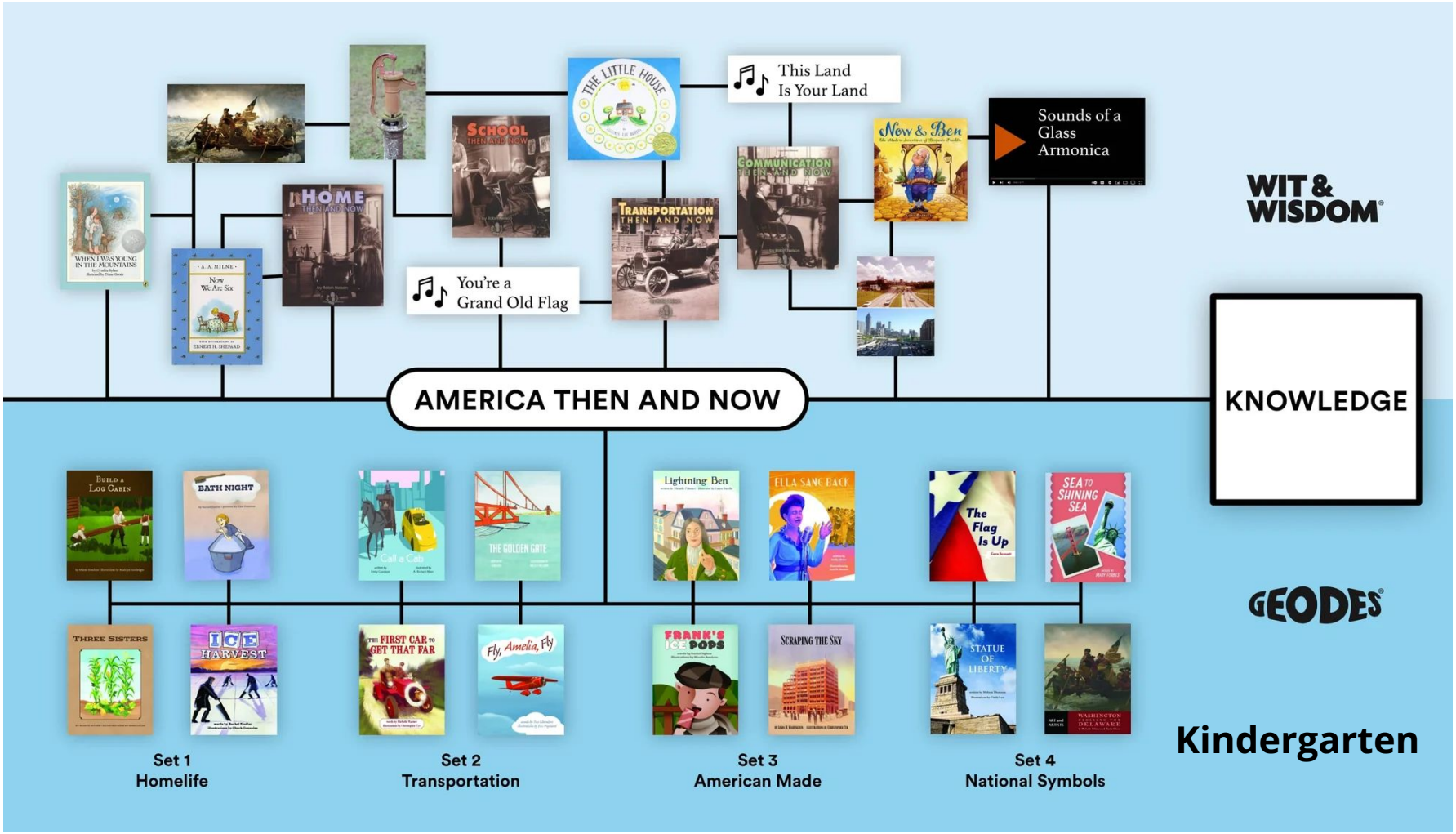
Grade	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
K	The Five Senses	Once Upon a Farm	America, Then and Now	The Continents
1	A World of Books	Creature Features	Powerful Forces	Cinderella Stories
2	A Season of Change	The American West	Civil Rights Heroes	Good Eating
3	The Sea	Outer Space	A New Home	Artists Make Art
4	A Great Heart	Extreme Settings	The Redcoats Are Coming!	Myth Making
5	Cultures in Conflict	Word Play	A War Between Us	Breaking Barriers
6	Resilience in the Great Depression	A Hero's Journey	Narrating the Unknown: Jamestown	Courage in Crisis
7	Identity in the Middle Ages	Americans All (WWII)	Fever	Language and Power
8	Poetics and the Power of Storytelling	The Great War	What is Love?	Teens as Change Agents

Core Texts, Supplementary Texts, & Media

- The core texts include much beloved, award-winning books from both contemporary and established authors.
- Supplementary texts and media, including poems, videos, informational articles, websites, music and other audio, fine art, and graphs, charts, or maps, are thoroughly integrated and seamlessly connected to lesson studies.

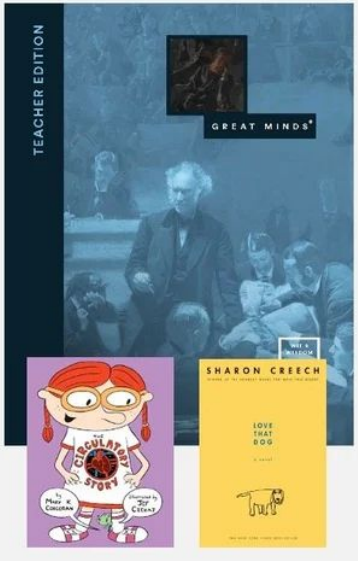




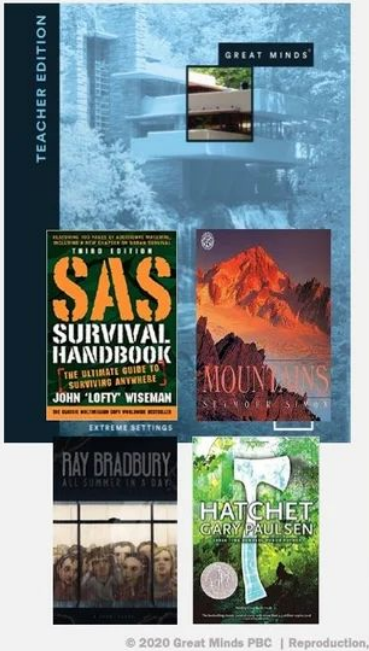

This Land Is Your Land
You're a Grand Old Flag
Sounds of a Glass Armonica
AMERICA THEN AND NOW
KNOWLEDGE
WIT & WISDOM
GEODES
Kindergarten
Set 1 Homelife
Set 2 Transportation
Set 3 American Made
Set 4 National Symbols

Grade 4 Module Topics and Texts

Module 1:
A Great Heart



Module 2:
Extreme Settings



Module 3:
The Redcoats Are Coming!



Module 4:
Myth Making



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