



Tips for Families

Level 3 Module 4 | *Artists Make Art*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 module 4. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 3 module 4, *Artists Make Art*, students examine the lives and works of artists who paint, make music, dance, or write poetry. They answer the module's Essential Question: What is an artist?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- If you could be any kind of artist, what kind would you be? Why?
- What is your favorite art form to observe? What is your favorite art form to participate in? Why?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 4, students read and learn from these books:

- *Emma's Rug*, Allen Say
- *Action Jackson*, Jan Greenberg, Sandra Jordan, and Robert Andrew Parker
- *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of a Century*, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Brian Selznick
- *Alvin Ailey*, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney
- *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa*, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney
- *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*, Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Visit the library to find books of interest to your student. Participate in library programs such as summer reading.



What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Artists Make Art*, students plan, organize, and write research papers about what makes the works of different artists unique.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Invite your student to plan an art project by asking them to create a list of the materials they need or to describe the steps they'll take to complete the project.

What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- artist
- express
- imagine
- improvise
- inspiration
- original
- research
- rhythm
- style
- unique

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Encourage your student to look up new and unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

Ask your student to name the artists they have studied. Encourage them to share what they know about the artists and their works. Visit a museum together, online or in person, to see more works from a favorite artist.

Have a family art night in which each member creates, performs, or shares a drawing, song, or dance.

