



Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 4 | *Let's Play Ball*



We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 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 4 module 4, *Let's Play Ball*, students learn about the rich history of baseball, the power of Negro League baseball, and the individuals who contributed to the Negro Leagues' success. They answer the module's Essential Question: How can individuals contribute to a collective legacy?

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

- If you could play any sport, what would it be and why?
- What do you know about the sport of baseball?

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 4 module 4, students read and learn from these books:

- *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, Kadir Nelson
- *Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson*, Sharon Robinson and Kadir Nelson

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. For example, talk about reading at mealtimes. Encourage your student to retell or to share their opinions about books they are 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. In *Let's Play Ball*, the last module of the year, students integrate what they have learned about the Negro Leagues, informative writing, and speaking and presenting. They research an individual from the Negro Leagues and then plan and organize a presentation, sharing information through writing, speaking, and a visual display.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Create a list of different sports. Ask your student to select one sport and to write questions they have about it. Prompt them to write a letter or an email to a coach or an athlete they know who can answer their questions.



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:

- barrier
- collective
- dedication
- harmony
- integrate
- league
- legend
- passion
- pride
- professional
- research
- segregate

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, point out and discuss interesting words when reading.

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.

Invite your student to research the origins of a sports team or sporting event, such as the Olympics, World Cup football, Tour de France, or the NFL championship. Have your student present their findings to your family.

Play baseball or another sport or game, such as soccer, tennis, basketball, or flying discs, with your student. Discuss the rules of the sport or game, what makes it fun, and the skills that players need to participate in it.

