Tips for Families

Level 5 Module 2 | *Extreme Settings*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 5 module 2. 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 5 module 2, *Extreme Settings*, students explore places that are dangerous or difficult for humans and consider how people respond to the challenges they face in such places. They answer the module's Essential Question: How does an extreme setting affect a person?

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

- In which of the following places could humans live without difficulty: cave, city, desert, farm, ocean, snow-covered mountain? Why do you think so?
- In which of those places would humans have difficulty living? Why do you think so?

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 5 module 2, students read and learn from this short story and book:

- "All Summer in a Day," Ray Bradbury
- *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*, Christina Soontornvat

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. The book that students read in this module describes a modern-day news story that captivated the world. Start the day with the news. Read and share print or online newspaper articles with your student.

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 *Extreme Settings*, students plan, organize, and write opinion essays about topics related to extreme settings.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Consider writing a note to your student in which you ask them a *would you rather* question about two different settings, such as in these two examples: Would you rather live in space or underwater? Would you rather live in a tree house or on a houseboat? Encourage them to write a note back to share their choice and the reasons for it.

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:

- cave
- collaboration
- environmental conditions
- extreme setting
- hardship
- karst
- panic
- survive
- vital

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Invite your student to make a list of new and unknown words they encounter while reading or during conversations. Encourage your student to look up the meanings of these 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.

Visit your local library or search online with your student for examples of extreme environments across the globe, such as Antarctica, the Australian Outback, Dallol, Greenland, or the Sahara Desert. Discuss with your student what makes these places difficult for life to survive.

Tell your student about a time when you worked with others to solve a problem or to achieve a goal. Then invite your student to share an example of collaboration from their life—one they participated in or one they witnessed.

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