Tips for Families

Level 5 Module 3 | *Wordplay*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 5 module 3. 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 3, *Wordplay*, students examine how writers use words to amuse, humor, or puzzle their readers. They answer the module's Essential Question: How and why do writers play with words?

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

- What books, movies, or TV shows make you laugh? What makes them funny?
- How can words create humor?

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 3, students read and learn from this video and book:

- "Who's on First?" Bud Abbott and Lou Costello
- *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster and Jules Feiffer

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Create a space in your home for reading and set aside time where you and your student can read together.

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 *Wordplay*, students plan, organize, and write stories related to *The Phantom Tollbooth*, using words cleverly or playfully.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Suggest that your student share a joke or riddle with a relative or friend by writing a handwritten note, sending a text, or using email.

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:

- comedy
- idiom
- ignorance
- knowledge
- pun
- rhyme or reason
- surreal
- transformation
- wisdom
- wordplay

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, invite your student to share the meanings of the words *idiom* and *pun*. Encourage them to provide an example for each word.

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.

As a family, take turns listing favorite words and words you use frequently. Invite each person to select three or four words that they believe are the most valuable and then discuss your choices.

Play word games with your student. For example, take turns asking hink pink riddles, which are questions that you answer with a pair of rhyming words. To start, one person thinks of two rhyming words, such as *play day*. Then they ask others a question that provides a clue to the rhyming words, such as the following: What is 24 hours of fun? When someone answers the question correctly, that person creates the next hink pink riddle.