

MODULE 1

Fourth Grade

What's Happening in English Language Arts Class?

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.

A GREAT HEART



The heart is a literal muscle that sustains human life and represents the figurative center of human emotion. In *A Great Heart*, students build knowledge of the physical and emotional complexities of the heart as they explore the power of language to help people understand complex ideas and emotions. Throughout the module, students return to the Essential Question: What does having a great heart mean?

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THESE BOOKS:



Informational Text

- *The Circulatory Story*, Mary K. Corcoran and Jef Czekaj

Literature Text

- *Love that Dog*, Sharon Creech

OUR CLASS WILL
READ THESE POEMS:

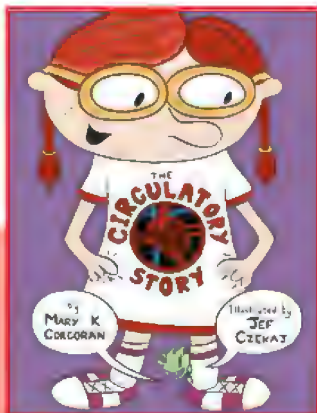


- “*Heart to Heart*”, Rita Dove
- “*Love that Boy*”, Walter Dean Myers

OUR CLASS WILL
LOOK AT THESE
PAINTINGS:



- *Mother and Child*, Barbara Hepworth
- *Portrait of Doctor Samuel D. Gross*, (The Gross Clinic, Thomas Eakins)





OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS: ?

- What do I notice and wonder about this text?
- What does a deeper look at figurative language reveal?
- What does a deeper look at illustrations reveal?
- What is happening in this work of art?
- What is a central idea in this text?



*Author and Poet:
Walter Dean Myers*

VOCABULARY



For their tests, your child should know the meaning of each word. They should also know how to use each word in a sentence:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| • blood vessel | • figurative |
| • circulate | • generous |
| • circulatory system | • greathearted |
| • coronary | • healthy |
| • courageous | • heart |
| • empathetic | • literal |

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS:



- “Dr. Samuel Gross,” Great Minds®
- “An Evening of Poetry at the White House,” White House archives
- “Poet Laureate,” Great Minds



PRACTICING AT HOME

WRITING, TALKING AND READING

Snapshot: In this first module, A Great Heart, your child will learn what it means to have a really great heart, literally and figuratively.

FOURTH GRADE MODULE 1: A GREAT HEART

YOUR CHILD WILL WORK TOWARD UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

What does it mean to have a great heart, both literally and figuratively?

Writing Goals:

- a hook to introduce their writing
- thesis that states main focus of their writing and two supporting points
- two proof paragraphs supporting their focus
- evidence to support their proof paragraph
- elaboration to explain their evidence
- concluding paragraph that answers the *so what?* question

TRY THESE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

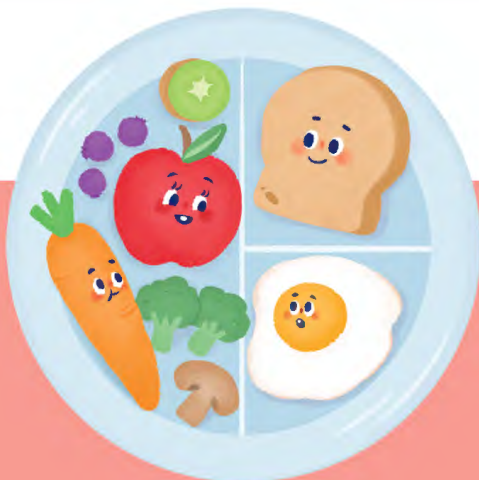
[FLUENCY](#)

Click on the word “FLUENCY” in the yellow box for a list of references for what fluency skills we will be working on.

Listen to your child read, and reread, books, articles, poems, graphic novels, etc.

Participate in an activity with your student that benefits the heart, such as planning and preparing a healthy meal or exercising.

Invite your student to share a time when they exhibited a great heart through courage, generosity, or empathy. Or have a mealtime where each family member takes a moment to share an example of another family member’s greatheartedness.



PLACES TO VISIT TO TALK ABOUT THE HEART

Here are some places where you can visit and interact with the concept of the heart if you are looking for ideas!

- Science Museums/Children's Museums
- Medical Schools or University Anatomy Labs
- Zoos/Aquariums
- Hospitals/Medical Centers
- Online Virtual Tours/Simulations
- Art Museums



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 A Great Heart, students plan, organize, and write informative paragraphs and essays about what it means to have a great heart. Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write.
- Make a list with your student of people who demonstrate the traits of greatheartedness through courage, generosity, or empathy. Ask your student to select one person to write a letter, email, or note to in which they tell that person how they show a great heart.

RESOURCES

Want to read some books about this unit at home?

Here are some suggestions:

- *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*, Pat Mora
- *Locomotion*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero*, Patricia McCormick
- *Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World About Kindness*, Donna Janell Bowman
- *The Girl with a Brave Heart: A Tale from Tehran*, Rita Jahanforuz
- *The Heart: All About Our Circulatory System and More!*, Seymour Simon
- *The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate
- *Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas*, Gwendolyn Hooks
- *What Is Given from the Heart*, Patricia C. McKissack
- *Who Was Clara Barton?*, Stephanie Spinner

