

Tips for Families

Level 4 Module 1 | *A Great Heart*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 4 module 1. 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 1, *A Great Heart*, students examine the heart as both a literal muscle that sustains human life and a figurative center of emotions. They answer the module's Essential Question: What does having a great heart mean?

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

- What do you think of when you hear the word *great*?
- What do you think of when you hear the word *heart*?

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 1, students read and learn from these books:

- *The Circulatory Story*, Mary K. Corcoran and Jef Czekaj
- *Love That Dog*, Sharon Creech

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home.

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 *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.



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:

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

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, discuss the meanings of new, unknown words with your student.

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.

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.



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