

Tips for Families

Level 5 Module 4 | *Windy City Poetry*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 5 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 5 module 4, *Windy City Poetry*, students learn about the craft of poetry and how Chicago poets used this art form to express joy and challenges during the Great Migration of the early 1900s. They answer the module's Essential Question: What is the value of poetry?

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

- What do you know about poems?
- What are some poems you know? What are they about?

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 4, students read and learn from the following poems and book:

- "Evenin' Air Blues," Langston Hughes
- *Finding Langston*, Lesa Cline-Ransome
- "I Want to Write," Margaret Walker
- "I dwell in Possibility," Emily Dickinson

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Visit a library with your student to check out their books of interest. Encourage your student to take their library book with them to appointments or other places where they will have to wait.

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 *Windy City Poetry*, the last module of the year, students integrate what they have learned about poetry, informative writing, and speaking and presenting. They research a Chicago-based poet 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. Invite your student to write a poem. For example, they could write a haiku, which is a three-line poem with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second, and five syllables in the third.



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:

- biography
- the blues
- community
- influence
- migrate
- namesake
- poetry
- renaissance
- research

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. For example, discuss the meanings of the words *influence* and *research* with your student. Ask them how they would use these words in sentences, first as nouns and then as verbs.

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.

Have a family poetry reading. Prior to the reading, work with your student to find poetry books in the library or individual poems online that family members would enjoy. Ask all family members to select one poem and then take turns reading the poems aloud.

Support your student in researching three to five popular tourist attractions that they would like to visit in the city of Chicago.

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