

# WIT & WISDOM FAMILY TIP SHEET

## WHAT IS MY GRADE 4 STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 4?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: A Great Heart

Module 2: Extreme Settings

Module 3: The Redcoats Are Coming!

### **Module 4: Myth Making**

In the third module, *Myth Making*, we will read and analyze myths from the ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as Native American tribes, to learn the purpose and importance of these stories in their cultures. Students will also enjoy reading *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, a novel in words and pictures that explores the history of early film in France from the perspective of a young boy that captures the inspiring spirit and creative power of storytelling. Students will explore the question: What can we learn from myths and stories?

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

### **Novel (Literary)**

- *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick

### **Drama (Literary)**

- *Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children*, Joseph Bruchac

### **Historical Account (Informational)**

- *Understanding Greek Myths*, Natalie Hyde

### **Myths (Literary)**

- *Gifts from the Gods: Ancient Words & Wisdom from Greek & Roman Mythology*, Lise Lunge-Larsen

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Pandora*, Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- *Pandora*, Odilon Redon

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS GRAPHIC:

- “*The Raven Steals the Light*,” Bill Reid and Robert Bringhurst

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THIS MYTH:

- “When Raven Soared,” Leigh Anderson

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THIS SCULPTURE:

- Winged Victory

## OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THESE VIDEOS

- “Aerial Acropolis Focusing on Parthenon House of Goddess Athena/Acropolis. Athens, Greece”
- “Secrets of the Parthenon,” PBS Nova
- “Samothrace Reconstruction: Hieron to Nike”

## OUR CLASS WILL VIEW THIS PHOTOGRAPH:

- Parthenon, Britannica

## OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What are myths, and why do people create them?
- What do myths and stories from different cultures have in common?
- Who is Hugo Cabret and how does his story begin?
- How do myths and stories shape your understanding of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your Grade 4 student reads, ask:

- How does this text build your knowledge of myths and stories? Share what you know about myths and stories.

## BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Treasury of Egyptian Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Monsters, & Mortals*, Donna Jo Napoli
- *Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, and Monsters*, Donna Jo Napoli
- *Pegasus*, Marianne Mayer
- *Cupid and Psyche*, M. Charlotte Craft
- *A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories*, Rudyard Kipling
- *Greek Myths for Young Children*, Heather Amery
- *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, Rick Riordan
- *Fables*, Arnold Lobel
- *The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend*, Li Jian
- *Classic Myths to Read Aloud: The Great Stories of Greek and Roman Mythology*, William F. Russell

## IDEAS FOR TALKING ABOUT MYTHS AND LEGENDS:

Ask your Grade 4 student to explain the perspectives of the two main sides in the American Revolution.

- Ask your Grade 4 student to explain what makes a myth, a myth.
- Retell a myth and explain its purpose.
- Explain why people first created myths.
- Explain the two main types of myths.
- Discuss what the ancient Greeks learned from myths.
- Summarize what was happening in the books read in class.
- Create a comic strip to record in pictures what is happening in each story that is read in class. Discuss with your child each night.
- Practice reading aloud the fluency passages assigned for homework.
- Discuss the characters in *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Who are they? Why are they important to the story?
- Discuss the actors and films that are referenced in *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Look these actors and films up together in books and on the Internet.
- Write your own family myth and share it with others.