

WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY FIRST-GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 2?

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 World of Books

Module 2: Creature Features

Module 3: Powerful Forces

Module 4: Cinderella Stories

In Module 2, *Creature Features*, we will study the unique features of animals. We will ask: *What makes animals so fascinating? How do we observe, learn about, and engage with animals? How are the features of animals' bodies and behavior similar to and different from one another?*

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE BOOKS:

Picture Books (Informational)

- *Me...Jane*, Patrick McDonnell
- *Never Smile at a Monkey*, Steve Jenkins
- *Sea Horse: The Shyest Fish in the Sea*, Chris Butterworth, John Lawrence
- *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*, Steve Jenkins, Robin Page

Picture Books (Literary)

- *Seven Blind Mice*, Ed Young

Fables

- "The Hare & the Tortoise," *Aesop's Fables*
- "The Ants & the Grasshopper," *Aesop's Fables*

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THIS VIDEO:

- "Pygmy Sea Horses: Masters of Camouflage," Deep Look (2014)

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE PAINTINGS:

- *Young Hare*, Albrecht Dürer (1502)
- *The Snail*, Henri Matisse (1953)

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- What lessons can we learn through stories about animals?
- How did Jane Goodall make discoveries about animals?
- How do sea horses use their unique features?
- How do animals use the same feature in unique ways?
- How do animals use their unique features in unexpected ways?
- What can we discover about animals' unique features?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As you read with your first-grade student, ask:

- *What's happening?*
- *What does a closer look at words and illustrations reveal about this text's deeper meaning?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Creature Features*, Steve Jenkins
- *Sisters and Brothers*, Steve Jenkins
- *How to Clean a Hippopotamus*, Steve Jenkins
- *My First Day*, Steve Jenkins
- *Where in the Wild?*, David Schwartz
- *Where else in the Wild?*, David Schwartz
- *Unusual Creatures*, Michael Hearst
- *Fins, Furs, and Feathers: Abraham Dee Bartlett and the Invention of the Modern Zoo*, Cassandre Maxwell
- *Starfish*, Edith Thatcher Hurd
- *Sharks*, Kate Riggs
- *Amazing Animals: Dolphins*, Kate Riggs
- *Gentle Giant Octopus*, Karen Wallace
- *Surprising Sharks*, Nicola Davies

- *Big Blue Whale*, Nicola Davies
- *Amazing Animals: Cheetah*, Kate Riggs
- *Amazing Animals: Elephants*, Kate Riggs
- *Walk with a Wolf*, Janni Howker
- *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest*, Steve Jenkins
- *A Tower of Giraffes*, Anna Wright
- *The Happy Lion*, Louise Fatio
- *Unlovable*, Dan Yaccarino
- *Inch by Inch*, Leo Leonni
- *Amazing Animals: Eagles*, Kate Riggs
- *Bat Loves the Night*, Nicola Davies
- *Grasshopper on the Road*, Arnold Lobel
- *Behold The Beautiful Dung Beetle*, Cheryl Bardoe
- *Yucky Worms*, Vivian French
- *Chameleons Are Cool*, Martin Jenkins
- *The Beetle Book*, Steve Jenkins
- *The Iridescence of Birds*, Patricia MacLachlan
- *The Circus Ship*, Chris Van Dusen; *Henri's Scissors*, Jeanette Winter
- *The Cat and the Bird: Children's Book Inspired by Paul Klee*, Geraldine Elschner
- *A Bird or Two: A Story About Henri Matisse*, Bijou le Tord;

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT ANIMALS:

Visit a zoo, farm, or pet shop together. Ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder about the animals?*
- *What are some of the unique features of this animal?*
- *How does this animal use these unique features?*

You could ask these same questions at home about a family pet.

