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# WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

## WHAT IS MY SEVENTH GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 1?

*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: Identity in the Middle Ages**

Module 2: Americans All

Module 3: Language and Power

Module 4: Fever

In this first module, *Identity in the Middle Ages*, students are introduced to the daily lives of medieval Europeans. Immersed in the Middle Ages (500–1500 AD), students focus on identity and character and the impact of society on both.

## OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

### **Novel**

- *Castle Diary*, Richard Platt
- *The Midwife's Apprentice*, Karen Cushman
- *The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer, retold by Geraldine McCaughrean

### **Poetry**

- "Identity," Julio Noboa Polanco

## OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE WORKS OF ART:

- *Joachim Among the Shepherds*, Giotto di Bondone
- *Pilgrims Leaving Canterbury*, From Lydgate's *Siege of Thebes*
- *The Three Living and The Three Dead*, Master of the Dresden Prayer Book

## OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How does society influence identity and experience?
- What do *The Canterbury Tales* reveal about identity and storytelling?
- In *The Midwife's Apprentice*, how does the protagonist's identity change over time?
- What elements make for an engaging historical narrative?

## QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your seventh grade student reads, ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder?*

## BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *A Proud Taste for Scarlet and Miniver*, E.L. Konigsburg
- *The Door in the Wall*, Marguerite de Angeli
- *Adam of the Road*, Elizabeth Janet Gray
- *Catherine, Called Birdy*, Karen Cushman
- *The Kite Fighters*, Linda Sue Park
- *A Single Shard*, Linda Sue Park
- *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction*, David Macauley
- *Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta 1325-1354*, James Rumford
- *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village*, Laura Amy Schlitz
- *The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay: Life in Medieval Africa*, Patricia McKissack and Fredrick McKissack

## IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING SOCIETY AND IDENTITY (AND THE MIDDLE AGES):

You can talk about identity and society at any time, any where. Ask:

- *How do you think our society influences your identity?*
- *How does our society differ from the Middle Ages?*
- *If you wrote a historical narrative about our society, who would be the characters? Where would it take place?*