

# St. Mary's Middle School Language Arts

St. Mary's middle school language arts program uses Wit & Wisdom curriculum. This curriculum centers on the study of rich and engaging texts (not basals), curated to build student knowledge and important ideas in the liberal arts and the sciences. The approach is integrated and text-based: daily reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary study is based, and draws evidence from, exceptional texts. Lessons list aligned standards for each assessment. Students will be held accountable for what they know and what they can do. The best assessments mirror the work students will do in college and their careers, allowing them to perform their learning in authentic contexts. Focusing Question Tasks, Socratic Seminars, & End-of-Module Tasks are designed to elicit the kind of performance, giving students the opportunity to show what they can do by applying their learning to solving academic, intellectual, and real-world problems.

## 6th Grade Core Texts:

Bud, Not Buddy  
Out of the Dust  
The Odyssey  
The Ramayana: The Divine Loophole  
Blood on the River: James Town in 1607  
Written in Bone: Buried Lives in Jamestown  
I Am Malala  
Shipwrecked at the Bottom of the World

## 7th Grade Core Texts:

The Canterbury Tales  
Castle Diary  
The Midwife's Apprentice  
Code Talker  
Farewell to Manzanar  
Animal Farm  
American Plague: The True and Terrifying Account of Yellow Fever  
Fever 1793

## 8th Grade Core Texts:

The Crossover  
All Quiet on the Western Front  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Claudette Colvin