



Founded in 2007, Great Minds PBC has evolved from an education advocacy start-up to a respected curriculum developer providing the highest-quality materials and professional development to schools and districts nationwide. In pursuit of its goal of raising expectations for every student, Great Minds© enlists educators to write curricula based on proven learning strategies to reward students' natural curiosity, build knowledge, and cultivate lifelong critical-thinking skills. Writing teams collaborate to ensure a consistent structure and vision for learning within and across all grade levels. We are pleased to bring you our newest kindergarten through grade level 8 English language arts (ELA) offering, *Arts & Letters*™.

Arts & Letters students engage with high-quality texts to explore science and social studies topics, literature, and fine art. By studying topics in depth, students build knowledge of the lived experiences of others and learn how a deeper knowledge of those experiences can change the world. The text-based lessons build strong readers, writers, and communicators through effective use

of grammar and vocabulary. All students read and discuss grade-level texts, and the curriculum provides guidance for supporting all learners at key moments in the lessons.

There are four topic-driven modules for each grade level in *Arts & Letters*. The modules last between six and eight weeks and contain approximately 40 lessons. The core of each module is a selection of literary works, informational texts, and visual art. All modules integrate reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language instruction.

Arts & Letters was intentionally designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program. With strategic placement of supplemental materials, students can successfully achieve the proficiencies of Nebraska standards while benefiting from the rich texts and knowledge-building of *Arts & Letters*. A detailed alignment analysis between Nebraska standards and *Arts & Letters* follows.

Foundations of Reading

Concepts of Print | Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and basic concepts of print.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the organization and basic concepts of print.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program. <i>Arts & Letters</i> intentionally does not address most foundational skills within core materials for grade levels K–2. Some exceptions include morphology instruction, which occurs throughout K–2, and fluency instruction, which begins in grade level 2. <i>Geodes</i>®, our accessible and information-rich books for emerging and developing readers, provide students with additional opportunities to apply their growing decoding skills while building knowledge on topics that align with <i>Arts & Letters</i> modules.</p>
<p>2.F.1a Recognize the distinguishing features of a paragraph including that multiple sentences may be used to form a paragraph and the author may indent or skip a line to signal a new paragraph.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>

Foundations of Reading

Phonological Awareness | Demonstrate phonological awareness through oral activities.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.2 Demonstrate understanding of advanced phonemic awareness skills in spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.2a Identify, segment, and blend phonemes in single syllable spoken five and six phoneme words including words with blends, digraphs, and trigraphs.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.2b Substitute sounds in words with five or more phonemes.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.2c Delete initial and final phonemes in words including words with blends.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>

Foundations of Reading

Phonics and Word Analysis | Demonstrate phonetic and word analysis knowledge and apply decoding skills to isolated words and in connected text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.3 Know and apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding (spelling) words.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.3a Decode words with variable vowel teams and vowel diphthongs.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.3b Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.3c Decode words with open and closed syllables and consonant -le.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>
<p>2.F.3d Decode words with common Anglo roots and suffixes.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.3e Decode words with silent letter combinations.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> was designed to be implemented alongside a high-quality, research-based foundational skills program.</p>

Foundations of Reading

Fluency | Read grade-level texts with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.F.4 Develop accuracy, phrasing, and expression/prosody while reading a variety of grade-level texts to support comprehension.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 37, 38 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 35, 36, 37 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 35, 36 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 26, 37</p>
<p>2.F.4a Read a variety of texts accurately using appropriate rate, expression, and intonation to reflect meaning.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 37, 38 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 35, 36, 37 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 35, 36 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 26, 37</p>
<p>2.F.4b Read grade level high-frequency words with automaticity and accuracy (e.g., Fry or Dolch words or those included in instructional materials).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 37, 38 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 35, 36, 37 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 35, 36 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 26, 37</p>

Reading Prose and Poetry

Central Ideas and Details | Citing relevant and thorough textual evidence to support ideas, evaluate the development of themes or central ideas in grade-level literary text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RP.1 Recount narratives and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 5, 8, 10, 18, 20, 30, 32, 36 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 23, 28, 30, 34 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 17, 34 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 18, 36</p>
<p>2.RP.2 Describe characters and how they interact with one another.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 9, 18, 19, 20, 30, 31, 32 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 23, 29, 30 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 15, 16, 17 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17</p>

Reading Prose and Poetry

Author's Craft | Citing relevant and thorough evidence to support ideas, evaluate the development and interaction of individuals, ideas, and events in grade-level literary text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RP.3 Determine and explain who is telling a story within and across literary texts.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 3, Lesson 16 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 8, 17</p>
<p>2.RP.4 Describe the basic structure of a literary text, including how literary elements are introduced and developed and conflicts are resolved.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 28 Level 2, Module 3, Lesson 15 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 3, 13, 17</p>

Reading Prose and Poetry

Knowledge and Ideas | Citing relevant and thorough textual evidence to support ideas, evaluate how an author’s perspective or use of point of view shapes the style and meaning of grade-level literary text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RP.5</p> <p>Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same literary text by different authors or from different cultures.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 11, 18, 19</p>
<p>2.RP.6</p> <p>Ask and answer literal (e.g., recall/details) and simple inferential (e.g., why or how) questions about key details in a literary text.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36</p> <p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 36</p>
<p>2.RP.7</p> <p>Compare and contrast topics in a variety of literary texts to build knowledge of cultures (e.g., history, values, beliefs, and behaviors).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 4, Lesson 18</p>

Reading Prose and Poetry

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity | Read and comprehend complex, grade-level literary text independently and proficiently.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RP.8</p> <p>With scaffolding as needed, read and comprehend a wide range of literary texts of appropriate complexity for Grade 2.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38</p> <p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 27, 28, 29, 30, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 36</p>

Reading Informational Text

Central Ideas and Details | Citing relevant and thorough textual evidence to support ideas, evaluate the development of themes or central ideas in grade-level informational text.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RI.1</p> <p>Identify the main topic and key details in a multi-paragraph text.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 26, 36</p> <p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 6, 9, 16, 17, 18, 20, 25, 28, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 9, 12, 24, 29, 34</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 23, 25, 31, 36</p>
<p>2.RI.2</p> <p>Describe the connections between individuals, historical events, scientific ideas, or steps in a process.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 13, 14, 15, 25, 27</p> <p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 17, 21, 24, 25, 26</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 24, 27, 29, 30</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 23, 24, 29, 33</p>
<p>2.RI.3</p> <p>Determine and explain the author's purpose in an informational text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 18</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 7, 12</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 29, 31, 33</p>
<p>2.RI.4</p> <p>Explain how text features (titles, headings, table of contents, glossaries, captions, graphs, maps, and/or other visuals) contribute to the meaning of texts.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 13, 14, 15, 25, 26, 27</p> <p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 27, 31</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 4, 23, 27, 28, 30</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33</p>
<p>2.RI.5</p> <p>Compare and contrast the two most important ideas presented by two informational texts on the same topic.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 19, 26</p> <p>Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 4, 7, 31</p> <p>Level 2, Module 4, Lesson 33</p>

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RI.6 Explain an author's opinion(s) and supporting evidence from the text.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 3, Lesson 28 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 24, 30</p>
<p>2.RI.7 Compare and contrast topics in a variety of informational texts to build knowledge of cultures (e.g., history, values, beliefs, and behaviors).</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> addresses this standard in grade level 3. Level 3, Module 2, Lesson 24</p>

Reading Informational Text

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity | Read and comprehend complex, grade-level informational text independently and proficiently.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.RI.8 With scaffolding as needed, read and comprehend a wide range of informational texts of appropriate complexity for Grade 2.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 35, 36 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 6, 11, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36</p>

Vocabulary

Acquisition and Use | Build and use a range of conversational, academic, and discipline-specific grade-level vocabulary and apply to reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of Arts & Letters
<p>2.V.1 Recognize and use conversational and grade-level academic vocabulary.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 3, 4, 9, 15, 29, 31 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 2, 3, 10, 11, 16, 18, 21, 24, 29 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 22, 23 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 4, 7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32</p>
<p>2.V.1a Use sentence-level context clues to determine the meaning of a word or phrase.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 3, 4, 15, 29, 31 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 2, 10, 11, 16, 18 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 22, 23 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 7, 8, 13, 23, 26</p>
<p>2.V.1b Use commonly occurring prefixes and suffixes to determine the meaning of unknown words (e.g., happy/unhappy).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 3, 21, 24 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 18, 22 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 17, 22, 25</p>
<p>2.V.1c Use known root words to determine the meaning of unknown words (e.g., addition, additional).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lesson 9 Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 21 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 13, 18, 22 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 23, 32</p>
<p>2.V.1d Determine the meaning of compound words by using knowledge of individual words (e.g., birdhouse).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 29 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 4, 16, 26</p>

<p>2.V.1e Determine the meanings of key words and phrases using provided reference materials and classroom resources.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 10 Level 2, Module 4, Lesson 26</p>
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Vocabulary

Context and Connotation | Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Nebraska Standards	Aligned Components of <i>Arts & Letters</i>
<p>2.V.2 Interpret an author’s use of figurative, connotative, and technical language in grade-level literary and informational text.</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 4, 19, 31 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 2, 8, 11, 16, 18, 21, 23 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 10, 11, 13, 22, 23, 28 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 7, 9, 16, 23, 25</p>
<p>2.V.2a Ask and answer questions about key words and phrases to determine their meaning.</p>	<p><i>Arts & Letters</i> addresses this standard in grade level 1 Level 1, Module 1, Lesson 12 Level 2, Module 1, Lessons 4, 19, 31 Level 2, Module 2, Lessons 2, 8, 11, 16, 18, 21 Level 2, Module 3, Lessons 3, 10, 11, 13, 22, 23, 28 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 23, 25</p>
<p>2.V.2b Distinguish nuances of meaning between closely related verbs (e.g., toss, throw) and closely related adjectives (e.g., thin, slender).</p>	<p>Level 2, Module 2, Lesson 23 Level 2, Module 4, Lessons 7, 9, 16</p>