Unit 3/Week 3

Title: Centerfield Ballhawk

Suggested Time: 3 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.3.1, RL.3.3, RL.3.4; RF.3.3, RF.3.4; W.3.1, W.3.4; SL.3.1; L.3.1, L.3.4

Teacher Instructions

*Refer to the Introduction for further details.*

**Before Teaching**

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

Big Ideas and Key Understandings

Jose’ and his father learn the importance of being “more aware of what the other person is feeling.”

Synopsis

Young Jose’ Mendez is a terrific centerfielder but a weak hitter. Jose’ wants his father, a former minor league player, and great hitter to be proud of him. He doesn’t hit very well in the game and thinks his dad will be disappointed in his performance. When his father calls him a “born outfielder”, Jose’ realizes that is father is proud of his abilities on and off of the field.

1. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
2. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

**During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.
2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along.

(Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)

1. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

Text Dependent Questions

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| **Text Dependent Questions** | **Answers** |
| Why is Mr. Mendez disappointed in Jose’? What does Jose’ think will make his father proud of him again? | Jose’ accidentally hit a ball through Mrs. Dooley’s car window while practicing his batting in the front yard. Jose’s father is disappointed in him because of this. Jose’ thinks that if he becomes a better batter, his father will be proud of him again. |
| What words does the author use to describe Jose’s homerun? | Crack! His bat met the ball head-on. The white sphere took off like a rocket for left field and sailed over the fence for a home run! |
| What team does Jose’ play for? | Jose’ plays for the Mudders. I know this because the Mudders fans screamed their heads off and shouted “All right, Jose’!” when he hit his home run. |
| What is the score of the game after Jose’ hits his home run? | Mudders 5, Bulls 2 |
| Based on what Jose’ does in this inning, would you say that Jose’ is a good hitter? Why? | Jose’ is a good hitter because he just hit a home run. |
| What does Jose’ do when Adzie Healy from the Bulls team hit the ball? | Jose’ started to run back the instant he had seen it so that he could catch it. |
| Barry says that Jose’ saved the team a run. How did Jose’ do that? | Jose’ catches the ball, which makes it an out, and ends the inning. The player on third base can’t score a run for the Bulls so Jose’s catch saved the team a run. |
| How did Jose’ do at his next at bat? | Jose’ grounded out. |
| Is Jose’ proud of his performance in the game? How does the reader know? | No. The text says that he thinks, “Good thing Dad isn’t at the game.” |
| What does the author means when he says, “the Stockade Bulls showed the real power they had, as if they had purposely kept it hidden until now? | He means that the Bulls finally get going by scoring five runs in one inning and tying up the score 7 to 7. |
| What does the word ***vanish*** mean? Why does Jose’ wish that he could ***vanish***? | Vanish means to disappear. Jose’ wishes he could vanish because instead of getting a hit that could break the tie and mean a .500 average for him, his hit flies out and score remains 7 to 7. |
| What does the author mean when he says that Jose’ was after the ball “like a gazelle”? Why does Jose’ run this way to catch the ball? | Jose’ runs very quickly “like a gazelle” to catch the ball because if he missed the ball, the Bulls will score a run and win the game. |
| Why does T.V. say, “It’s my fault we lost! My fault!”? | T.V. let a ground ball go right through his legs and a run scored. The game was over and the Bulls beat the Mudders 8 to 7. |
| What did Jose’ say to T.V. as they walked off the field together? | Jose’ said, “Don’t sweat it, man!” “It’s not the end of the world! Who’s perfect?” |
| Does Jose’ think his father will be proud of his performance in today’s game? | He thinks his father will not think much of him as a baseball player because he only got one out of 4 hits in today’s game. |
| Does Jose’s father arrive at the game before or after Jose’ makes his great catch? How do you know? | Jose’s father arrives before his great catch because he arrived in the 4th inning and the catch was made in the bottom of the sixth inning. |
| How can you tell that Jose’ is unhappy when he finds out his father has watched the game? | The look on Jose’s face changed and he felt that he couldn’t face his father after getting only one hit in four times at bat. |
| What reason does Jose’ give for wanting to hit .375 like his father did? | Jose’ wanted to make his father proud of him. |
| Both Mr. Mendez and Jose’ played baseball. How do their abilities as baseball players compare to one another? | Jose’ is a great outfielder but an average hitter. Mr. Mendez was a great hitter but he couldn’t make the catches that Jose’ can make. |
| What advice does Jose’s father give him about his hitting? | He tells Jose’ to stop worrying about hitting and concentrate on his fielding because that’s where his team needs him the most. |
| What are the different meanings of the word “hit” in this story? (Teacher will discuss why it is important to be aware of multiple meaning words, especially in a specialized context like a story about baseball.) | Hit means …when the batter swings and strikes the ball, a batting average for a single game, and being important and popular with someone. |
| What has Jose’ learned about the importance of teamwork? | He has learned that his teammates depend on him to make catches in the outfield and he likes having people depend on him. |
| How does Jose’s understanding of his father’s feelings change from the beginning to the end of the story? What causes this change? | At the beginning of the story Jose’ thinks that his father will be proud of him if he “hits.” At the end, he realized that he is a “hit” with his father because he is a good player and important to his team. They understand each other better after talking about it. |
| According to the end of the story, what counts the most to Jose’? | He is glad to be a “hit” with his father. |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING**  **BIG IDEAS OF TEXT**  Words addressed with a question or task | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  Words to be part of systematic vocabulary instruction, not essential for understanding the big ideas of the text |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION**  not enough contextual clues provided in the text | vanish | inning  singled  pounded, average  grounder  outfielder, ballhawk |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  sufficient context clues are provided in the text | practicing, disappointed  depend, concentrate |  |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

*The title of this selection is “Centerfield Ballhawk”. Using your answers from the questions above and class discussion, write an explanation about why the author or publisher chose this title. Be sure to clearly cite evidence from the text to support your answer.*

Answer: A proficient answer should include:

Students should explain how Jose’ is a “Centerfield Ballhawk” because he can make catches in the centerfield that most players would miss. Evidence from the text that supports this statement may include the following examples which highlight his talents as a centerfielder:

-Jose’ started to run back the instant he had seen it hit

-he was almost up against the fence when the ball came flying down over his head. He jumped-and

caught it!

-Jose’ was after it like a gazelle. He knew he had to catch that ball or the game was over.

-He dove, then felt the solid *thud!* as the ball landed squarely in his glove.

Note to Teacher

Although not overly complex, this story may present some difficulty for students that are not familiar with the game of baseball.