Unit 2/Week 4

Title: Here’s My Dollar

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RI.3.1, RI. 3.2, RI.3.5; W.3.2, W.3.4; SL.3.1, SL.3.2; L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.5

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

One person, no matter who they are, can have a big impact on a community.

Synopsis

Angel Arrellano, a nine-year-old girl from Fresno, CA. spearheaded a campaign to raise money to be donated to the local zoo. Her enthusiasm and altruism generated an overwhelming response from the Fresno community and beyond, which allowed for much needed upkeep and improvements for the zoo and its animals. The author details in the non-fiction piece the variety of activities Angel and her community engaged in that resulted in more then $600,000 to be donated to the zoo in less than six months.

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.)
3. 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** |
| What evidence in the text leads you to know how Angel feels about animals? | Angel has four cats of her own that she feeds and cares for. She loves animals so much that when she grows up, she wants to be a zoologist, someone who studies animals. She felt so sorry for the zoo animals she took it upon herself to write a letter to the local newspaper asking the community to join with her in donating money to the zoo, in order to care for all the animals. She organized activities at her own school and other schools, all to raise money and awareness about the plight of the Chaffee Zoo animals. She made public speaking appearances to talk about the zoo, and also appeared on TV to get community support. |
| The author used idioms in the text. An idiom is an expression that means something other than what the words actually say. (Teacher provides example not from the text.) Locate an example of an idiom, and explain what the author is saying. | The idiom is “Angel was cooking up a way to help the animals.”  The meaning of the sentence is that Angel is devising a plan to encourage her community to help save the zoo. |
| Another idiom appears in the text. Find it, and explain what the expression really means. | “She spoke from her heart.” Angel was speaking sincerely and with great feeling as she tried to convince the students that “we can all make a difference.” |
| Angel came up with a slogan, a phrase to catch peoples’ attention. What is the slogan? What does the slogan mean? | “Give a dollar, save a life.”  Angel is asking people to give money to save the lives of the zoo animals. |
| What evidence from the text helps us to understand why Angel decided to write her letter to the newspaper and not to the zoo? | Angel hoped that after reading the letter in the newspaper others in the community would want to donate a dollar. This is stated in both the text, and from the Fresno Bee article. |
| Why does the author tells us that she didn’t know that the zoo needed three million dollars, but that wouldn’t have stopped her anyhow”? | The author wanted us to know that Angel was very determined and that saving the zoo was very important to her. |
| The author also used details to describe other parts of Angel’s personality. Why does the author tell us so much about Angel? | We know from the text that Angel can be daring, as when she allowed the giraffe to swipe a slice of apple right out of her mouth. She is also confident enough to speak to students in her school, and also at public appearances and on TV. She is genuine and real, even when speaking to reporters “she tried to be herself.” |
| What was Angel’s affect on her community? What evidence in the text leads you to believe this? | Angel touched her community by demonstrating a strong commitment to making a real difference in the lives of the zoo animals. She was brave in speaking up for what she believed in, and drawing attention through her deeds and actions to the needs of the animals. Through her efforts the community raised more than $600,000 in less than ½ year. This demonstrates a huge amount of community involvement. |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING** | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION**  not enough contextual clues provided in the text | hero  slogan  grass-roots  financial plight  donations | on a mission  public appearance  interviewed  autographed  concerned |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  sufficient context clues are provided in the text | local newspaper  stationery  community  thrilled  tour  concerned  volunteers | hauled |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
* *The article ends with, “Angel opened the eyes of Fresno. She made us see that people can make a difference.” What is the evidence in the text that leads us to know Angel made a big difference in her community? Why was Angel the right person for the job?*

Answer: Responses should include Angel’s letter to the Fresno Bee, her visits to schools, speaking engagements and TV shows. It was because of her love of animals, and her commitment and efforts to that cause that she was able to garner the support of the citizens of Fresno and beyond. The combined efforts of the entire community resulted in more than $600,000 raised in less than 6 months. Her age and passion for animals made her the right person for the job.

Additional Tasks

* *Think of the selection “Home Grown Butterflies” and compare it to “Here’s My Dollar.” How are the actions of the people in the first selection similar or different to that of Angel in trying to make a difference in their community?*

Answer: In both stories they wanted to improve their community quality of life. In Butterflies they wanted to provide the village with a new source of income, in Here’s My Dollar, Angel wanted the community to help save the zoo so that the community, especially the children could enjoy visiting and learning about the animals.

* “Here’s My Dollar” is an informational non-fiction piece. The author uses text features to help you locate and learn the information in the article. Text features provide information that may or may not be written in the text itself. What text features did the author use to give more information about Angel’s commitment to raising money for the zoo?

Answer: The newspaper article from the Fresno Bee and a copy of her initial letter to the newspaper were also included. All of these additional text features give the reader a broader understanding of Angel’s motives and her commitment to helping the zoo animals.

Note to Teacher

* Locating the idiom or slogan might be difficult for ELs at levels 2 and 3. I would revise these questions as follows:
  + Idiom: Read the sentence containing the idiom and ask students what it means. Then, they should be able to locate the idiom in the next questions.
  + Slogan: Angel came up with a slogan, a phrase to catch people’s attention. The slogan was “Give a dollar, save a life.” What was Angel trying to tell people?