Unit 3/Week 3

Title: Yonder Mountain: A Cherokee Legend

Suggested Time: 3 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.4, RL.3.7; W.3.2, W.3.4; SL.3.1; L.3.1, L.3.2, 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

Being a great leader requires taking care of others even when it means putting their needs before your own.

Synopsis

Chief Sky, the beloved chief of the Cherokee tribe, is growing old. He decides it is time to find a new leader to take his place. He calls three young men to his side and tells them that one or them will become chief and lead his people. Chief Sky tells the three young men that he must first “put them to the test.” The three young men were told to go to the top of the mountain and bring back what they found there. Two of the young men go only part of that way to the top and bring back items that they feel will help the tribe. The last young man goes all the way to the top of the mountain. Once there, he sees smoke signals from another tribe. The tribe was asking for help. This young man feels compelled to return to the tribe and plead with Chief Sky to quickly go to the other tribe and help them. Chief Sky makes the decision that the last young man possessed the qualities required to take his place and become the new chief of the tribe.

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** | **Evidence-based Answers** |
| Instead of saying that Chief Sky was old, how did the author let you know this? Explain your answer by using details from the text. | The author lets you know that Chief Sky was old by giving clues in the text such as:  “Chief Sky had seen many summers and winters.” Many summers and winters means he had seen many years pass.  “But now his step was slow, his hand trembled on the bow.”  This sentence describes attributes of elderly people: moving slowly, hands trembling or shaking.  “He could no longer spot brother bear.” This sentence means that his eyesight was failing. |
| Why did Chief Sky call the three young men to him? | Chief Sky called the three young men to him because he was getting old and needed one of the men to take his place as the leader of the people. |
| Chief Sky told the three young men, “But first I must put you to the test.” The phrase “put you to the test” means to give someone a task and find out how well they will perform. What was the test Chief Sky gave the three young men? | Chief Sky pointed to a mountain in the distance. He told the three young men to go to the mountaintop and bring back what they found. |
| Using details from the selection, define the word **mist**. | Mist means fog. |
| Black Bear climbed part of the way up the mountain and he discovered “stones of great beauty.” Why did Black Bear choose to bring these stones back to Chief Sky? | Black Bear brought the stones back to Chief Sky because he thought they were valuable. He could trade the stones for food and the tribe would never go hungry. Black Bear also wanted to please Chief Sky. |
| Gray Wolf climbed past the sparkling stones and discovered herbs, bark, and roots. Why did Gray Wolf, choose to bring the herbs and roots back Chief Sky? | Gray Wolf brought the herbs and roots back to Chief Sky because he believed that the herbs and roots would heal the people and they would no longer be sick and suffer. Gray Wolf also wanted to please Chief Sky. |
| Using details from the text, how did Chief Sky react to Black Bear and Gray Wolf when they came down from the mountain? | Chief Sky was pleased with Black Bear and Gray Wolf. Chief Sky smiled fondly at both of them. He also told them that they had done well. |
| What details show that Soaring Eagle did not have an easy time on Yonder Mountain? | When Soaring Eagle came down from the mountain, his clothes were ripped and torn. His feet were bleeding as he stumbled into the village. . |
| Why did Soaring Eagle continue climbing to the top of the mountain? What did he notice along the way? | Soaring Eagle continued to climb to the top of the mountain because he wanted to please Chief Sky by doing exactly what he asked him to do. Along the way he noticed the sparkling stones and the healing herbs that the other young men brought back to Chief Sky. |
| When Soaring Eagle came down from the mountain, he told Chief Sky “he had nothing in his hands.” Even though he had nothing to show Chief Sky, he still brought back something important. What was this? | Even though Soaring Eagle came back from the mountaintop empty handed, his actions spoke volumes about his compassionate and unselfish nature. Soaring Eagle proved that he possessed the qualities needed to become a great leader. |
| In your own words, retell Soaring Eagle’s story. What does he ask of Chief Sky? | Soaring Eagle told Chief Sky that he saw a smoke signal from atop the mountain. The signal said that the people were dying and needed help. He pleaded with Chief Sky to go there quickly and help the people who were suffering. |
| Chief Sky chose Soaring Eagle because he said he wanted a leader who “has seen beyond the mountain.” What does he mean? | Chief Sky meant that he wanted a leader that could see past his own problems to do what was needed to serve others unselfishly. |

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| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION**  not enough contextual clues provided in the text | “put you to the test” | warriors  murmur |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  sufficient context clues are provided in the text | Cherokee  Chief  gaze  peak  gathered  herb | beloved  trembled  examined  fondly  steep, rugged |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING** | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
* *Chief Sky chose Soaring Eagle to take his place as chief because he possessed qualities of a great leader that enabled him to see “beyond the mountain to other people who are in need.” Use details from the story and class discussion to write a paragraph describing these qualities and how Soaring Eagle showed that he possessed them.”*

Answer: Soaring Eagle is a great leader because he followed Chief Sky’s directions. He remembered the instructions to climb to the top of the mountain. He stayed focused on the goal, even passing up stones and herbs that could have been used to help his people. Once he reached the top of the mountain, he saw smoke signals from people beyond the farthest mountain, and these signals were calling for help. Soaring Eagle rushed down from the mountaintop, risking bodily harm, and pleaded with Chief Sky to quickly go and help the people in need. Not only did this mean that Soaring Eagle came down from the mountain empty-handed, but he did so willingly. He placed the needs of others before his desire to become chief. This proved that he possessed the qualities needed to become a great leader.

Additional Tasks

* *Create a graphic organizer that lists the following descriptive phrases on the left and the meaning of each on the right: long seasons of peace, no longer spot brother deer among the trees, season of falling leaves, a thousand lights twinkling in the sun, watching the sun dance on each surface.*

Answer:

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| **Descriptive Phrase** | **Meaning** |
| Long seasons of peace | Many years of peace |
| No longer spot brother deer among the trees | Failing eyesight |
| Season of falling leaves | Fall/autumn |
| A thousand lights twinkling in the sun | Shining light from the stones |
| Watching the sun dance on each surface | Reflection of sunlight on the stones |

* *Read the “Trail of Tears”. How were the journeys in “Yonder Moutain” similar to and different from the journey of the Cherokee you read about in “Trail of Tears”? Discuss the reasons each had for leaving and the challenges they faced.*

Answer: In “Yonder Mountain”, the Cherokee chose to leave to help others in need. Yet, in “Trail of Tears”, the Cherokee were forced to leave. Each had a hard journey through mountains that were steep and rugged.