Unit 1/Week 3

Title: Grandfather’s Journey

Suggested Time: 4 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.4.1, RL.4.2, RL.4.3, RL.4.4; RF.4.4; W.4.2, W.4.4; SL.4.1, SL.4.2, SL.4.6; L.4.1, L.4.2, L.4.4, L.4.5

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

When you have something in common with someone, it helps you to understand and know him or her better.

Synopsis

As a young man tells the story of his grandfather’s journey from Japan to the United States he reveals that the two actually have a lot in common with each other. After visiting North America, his Grandfather ends up settling there in San Francisco, California and raising a family. After some time in California he longs to return to Japan and does so once his daughter is nearly grown. When he returns to Japan it is as he remembers and he is happy to be back with childhood friends. While in Japan, he still thinks of California and longs to return one last time to see the mountains and the ocean. Although Grandfather is not able to visit one last time, his grandson who is telling the story is able to travel to California and he too comes to love the land. Like his grandfather the narrator travels back and forth between California and his homeland always missing one while in the other.

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 does the author tell us about what the Grandfather did when he was a young man? | He left his homeland of Japan to see the world. He went on a journey on a steamship. He traveled by boat, train and foot. He explored new places in North America and saw new things that amazed and excited him. He saw things that reminded him of home. |
| Marvel means to feel wonder about or be astonished by something. For example, the little boy marveled at the magician in the park who turned a feather into a bird. What did Grandfather marvel at and why? | He marveled at the mountains because of their size and the rivers because they were so clear. Students may infer that he marveled at the mountains and the sky because they were new and different from things Grandfather had seen in his country of Japan. |
| What does the author tell us about how Grandfather feels in regards to his travels in North America? | The more Grandfather traveled, the more he wanted to travel. He wanted to see more new places and didn’t think of going back home. He liked California best because of the sunlight, the mountains and the seacoast. He enjoyed his travels so much that he returned home only to marry his childhood sweetheart and then settled in San Francisco making it his home.  |
| How do you understand the meaning of the word “surround”? | The picture shows birdcages all around Grandfather, so I can infer that to surround means to have all around you. |
| Why did Grandfather “wait no more” and take his family back to his homeland? | Watching his daughter grow reminded Grandfather of his own childhood back in Japan. He remembered his old friends and other things like the mountains and rivers of his homeland. He was homesick and missed Japan the place where he grew up.  |
| What was life like when Grandfather returned to Japan? | Things were as he remembered. He was happy with his old friends again. After raising his daughter in the city of San Francisco he moved to a large city in Japan and bought a house. His daughter fell in love, got married and had a son. He missed the mountains and rivers of California. He was homesick for California.  |
| Scattered means to separate, to go in different directions. For instance, the ants scattered in different directions when they were splashed with water. How had the war “scattered lives like leaves in a storm”? | After the war, the city had been destroyed by bombs and grandfather had to move back to his childhood village. Just like leaves being scattered, people were scattered. People had to move to different places.  |
| What evidence does the author provide to show that Grandfather was upset by the war? | He never kept another songbird. |
| What do the narrator and his grandfather have in common? | Not only do they have things in common, but the narrator understands how his grandfather *felt* when he was homesick. These feelings make him feel more connected to his grandfather and help him [the narrator] to understand him [his grandfather] better. |

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 | Marvel, astonishScatter | Appeared, journey, New WorldSculptures, bewilderEnormous, towering, longedExchanged |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**sufficient context clues are provided in the text | Surround, HomelandHomesick | StillExplore |

Culminating Task

Compare the narrator to his grandfather. Describe their similarities, using evidence from the text, and explain how these similarities lead the narrator to feel as though he truly “knows” his grandfather now. Be sure to use specific details from the text in your answer.

Answer:

The narrator comes to realize that he truly knows his grandfather after he sees how truly similar they are. They both go on a journey as young men. They both love California. They both have a daughter. They both miss the place of their childhood. They both miss one place when they are in another. Not only do they have things in common, but the narrator understands how his grandfather *felt* when he was homesick. These feelings make him feel more connected to his grandfather and help him [the narrator] to understand him [his grandfather] better.