Unit 1/Week 3

Title: Chang and the Bamboo Flute

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.3, RL.5.4, RL.5.10; RF.5.3, RF.5.4; W.5.2, W.5.4; SL.5.1, SL.5.6; L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.4

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

Sometimes, in order to be successful, you have to have the courage to try new things.

Synopsis

After a storm damages their houseboat, Chang’s family finds shelter in a barn that belongs to the family of Mei Mei, Chang’s good friend. Chang was born mute, but the music he plays on his flute is as beautiful as any voice. Chang is shy and only likes to play his flute in private. He worries about what has happened to his home and when he’ll be able to play his flute in private again. Although this troubles him, the flood subsides and his family returns to their houseboat, only to find that the mother’s wok was taken away in the storm, and this troubles Chang even more. He sees how upset his mother is, and he yearns to fix the problem for her. He goes to the market to replace the wok, but does not have the money. Encouraged by others in his village, he overcomes his fear of playing in public in order to earn the money necessary to buy his mother a new wok and help his family.

Instructional Focus

Character’s Motives

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** |
| A houseboat is a home that has a boat as the base and sits in the water. What happened to Chang’s family’s houseboat to make them seek shelter in a barn?  | The text states that a storm has damaged the family’s houseboat. |
| How does the text help you to understand how Chang is feeling? | Chang’s posture such as, knees bent, eyes closed, slumped shoulders and head down gives the impression that he is feeling sad and depressed. |
| Based on what you know about Chang from the first few pages of the story, why might he only share his music with his family and close friends?  | Possible answers are Chang only shares his music with his family and close friends because:* he was shy
* he was scared
* his disability (muted)

Note: Teachers should ensure that students understand what it means to be mute. |
| What does the author tell us about the problems Chang and his family are facing as a result of the storm?  | They must figure out how to repair the flood damage to their houseboat. (The gaping hole, missing shelves, and water soaked bedding and clothing, in addition to the wrecked state of the houseboat.) |
| What evidence does the author provide to show that the mood in Chang’s family changes as they work on the boat?  | The family begins to feel hopeful and happy. Chang’s father speaks hopefully about repairing the houseboat; Chang’s mother’s face brightens and she begins to prepare a “grand meal”. |
| The author writes, “’Let’s go to the market tomorrow,’ Mei Mei suggested. ‘It’ll probably be a nice day.’ Chang nodded, almost contented. Why does Chang only nod in response? (Prompt students to re-read the introduction on page 81 if necessary.) | He is mute, so he does not speak. |
| A wok is a large frying pan with a rounded bottom used for cooking Chinese food. Chang’s mother reacts when she realizes her wok is gone? What are some words and phrases the author uses to describe Chang’s mother’s reaction? | “My wok!” she cried. “My wok is gone!” Her eyes were brimming with tears.  |
| Why would Chang have preferred to give up his checkers game and his kite in place of his mother’s wok?  | Chang knew how much how much the wok meant to his mother, and he didn’t want her to be sad about losing it. |
| Foreshadowing is when an author/illustrator hints at or signals that something might happen in the future. How does the author use foreshadowing both in the text and the illustrations when it comes to Chang’s ideas about replacing his mother’s wok?  | The illustrator incorporates musical notes into the illustration, while the author states that Chang tucked his flute under his arm as they left for the market. She also states that Chang knows “one hard, painful way” to help his mother. |
| If you want something desperately that means that you have a great need or desire for it. Why did Chang desperately want the wok with the lid? | It was nicer than his mother’s old one. (It was bigger, the handle was made of polished wood, and a lid came with it.) |
| Why does Chang tuck his flute under his arm?  | After reading the text and knowing Chang states that he knows “one hard, painful way” to help his mother, we can infer that he wants to sell or trade his flute at the market. |
| What clues does the author give to show Zhao is unkind?  | Mei Mei calls him an awful man. Zhao sneers at Chang and answers him indignantly. Zhao makes fun of Chang’s flute and offered an unfair trade--pencils |
| When we encounter words in text with more than one meaning (Multiple-Meaning Words), we can use the rest of the sentence to help to figure out which meaning the author intends. The text says, “’It’s not!’ Mei Mei said hotly.” Explain what the author means by hotly. | The author meant that Mei Mei was very angry. |
| How are Bo Won’s and Chang’s motives for wanting Chang to play the flute different?  | Bo Won knows that Chang can play well and is likely to be rewarded with money for his playing. Chang wants to play because it might be his last chance if he trades his flute. |
| In the beginning of the story, Chang had no desire to play his flute in public. What are the clues the author gives to show why Chang becomes courageous enough to play in public?  | * Zhao was unkind.
* The man from the crowd wanted to hear a tune.
* Bo Won urged him to play.
* Chang realizes that this might be his last chance if he trades his flute.
 |
| To say something grudgingly means you say it without really wanting to. Why did Zhao grudgingly say, “Well, maybe somebody would like to have the flute, after all?”  | Zhao now knows that Chang does not have to trade or sell his flute. Zhao saw the reaction to the crowd and how they loved it. He realizes the flute is more than a bamboo stick. |
| How was Chang successful as a result having the courage to play in public?  | He bought the good wok for his mother and had it wrapped. The extra money he had left was used for food. |
| At the end of the story, the author writes, “He found his treasure, not in a milk jug but inside himself, here in the market.” What is the treasure Chang found inside himself?  | His treasure was the courage and confidence to play his flute in public. |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING**Words addressed with a question or task | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING** General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction  |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION** not enough contextual clues provided in the text | mute, houseboatwokdesperatelygrudgingly | urge, grateful, longedsteady, strained, priedhopefully, eventuallyalcove, content, stunnedindignantlystubborn, retort, heartilymurmur, attentive |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**sufficient context clues are provided in the text | hotly | damagesupply, homesickpriedcormorantsbrazieramid, merchandise, desperatelysneeredurgently |

Culminating Task

Write a paragraph that explains how Chang had to show courage in order to be successful within the story. Use specific details from the text, including direct quotes, to support your answer.

Answer: Chang had to show courage in order to be successful with his desire to help his family. Chang’s family had lost everything when their houseboat was destroyed by a storm. His mother was heartbroken over the loss of her wok. The text tells us that “a tangle of thoughts stirred in Chang’s mind” as he tried to figure out ways to help his family. It took courage for Chang to tuck his flute under his arm as he headed to market with Mei Mei. When they reached the market Chang saw a wok that would be perfect for his mom but he could not afford it. He offered to trade his flute for the wok, but the storekeeper was rude and offered only pencils. As Mei Mei argued on behalf of Chang, who was mute, a crowd gathered. A man called out, “I’d like to hear a tune. Chang hesitated, embarrassed. Never in his life had he played for strangers.” Through encouragement from Mei Mei and Bo Won, he found his own courage and began to play. When the admiring crowd threw money at his feet, he was able to purchase a more expensive wok and food to cook in it.

Additional Tasks

* Students will reread the argument between Mei Mei and Zhao. Students will identify the words and actions of each character, and then record these in a chart. Students will use these details to identify the characters’ traits and motives and tell how the difference between the two characters’ motives affects plot events.

Answer:

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| Character | Mei Mei | Zhao |
| Actions | speaks for Chang | sneers; laughs at Chang |
| Words | “It’s a flute! And all he wants for it is that old wok!; “It has to be the wok.” | “Who would want that? It’s nothing but a little bamboo stick!”; “I might give you a box of pencils for it, but nothing more”. |
| Traits | loyal, bold | mean, greedy |
| Motive | wants to help her friend | wants to get more than he gives |

* Students should think about a time when they had to show courage in order to be successful in a certain situation. They should then complete a journal entry about their experience. Students could then be prompted to share out if they are comfortable sharing their writing.