Unit 6/Week 1

Title: My Side of the Mountain

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.5.4, W.5.9, L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.3, L.5.4, L.5.5, L.5.6

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

Through friendship, courage, bravery, and the harmony within nature, people can survive independently.

Synopsis

Sam Gribley has been living alone in the woods all summer. Fall has arrived and the fear of winter has forced Sam to think of new ways to survive on his own. Through his survival on his own he has befriended and tamed a falcon, named Frightful. He has also decided to invite other forest animals over for a Halloween party. He realizes that it is harder to tell the forest animals to leave. Sam analyzes other animal’s characteristics to help him figure out how he is going to survive.

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 is Sam doing when the story begins? What is he collecting?  | He is on a stream floating on a raft. He is collecting arrowleaf bulbs, cattail tubers, and bulrush roots. He then smoked rabbit and dug wild onions.  |
| Personification is an author’s tool that gives human characteristics to non-human things. When this chapter opens, there are several examples. What are they?  | September has blazed a trail into the mountains. She has burned the grasses, frosted the aspen leaves, and she gathered the birds in flocks to head south.  |
| Reread the passage: *October 15* Sam says his fear for winter was awoken by the Baron losing his mantle. What does he realize he must do to prepare? | He realizes winter is coming soon, which means snow and cold wind. He decides he needs to get a new fur suit, underwear, and fur lined socks. He also decides to make a fireplace out of clay.  |
| The author says, “At that moment I knew what I was going to do. I was going to build a fireplace of clay, even fashion a little chimney of clay.” What does the word *fashion* mean in this sentence?  | The author means that he is going to put together a chimney of clay. |
| Describe why it took Sam three days to finish the fireplace. What are two challenges he encountered? How did he finally finish it?  | It took three days to make it work so that the fire didn’t smoke him out of the tree. Challenges he encountered were that the clay was too heavy, the funnel cracked, and he was smoked out of the tree. He finally finished by finding a flat narrow rock to hold up the funnel. He broke it into two pieces to hold up each side of the funnel.  |
| Why was Sam upset when he realized Frightful was gone?  | Frightful was a friend of Sam’s. Although he had enough food without her, he wouldn’t have anyone to talk to or play with. He would be lonely without her.  |
| Using evidence from the scene in the tree during Sam’s first fire in his fireplace, what does the word ventilate mean?  | Sam sees that Frightful looks a little sick and glassy eyed. He opens the flap of the tree to let the cold air revive her, which it does. He realizes that the fire had eaten all of the oxygen in the tree. They sit in the cold and sleep with the door open. Since Sam opens the door to get fresh air in the tree and then they sleep with door open. In the next paragraph Sam cuts out several knotholes to let air in and out of the tree room. Ventilate means to open up and let fresh air into a space.  |
| How does Sam relate the Baron Weasel’s actions and demeanor to that of a human?  | He describes his frowning face looking like an angry old man as he chews his food. He has a beady glance toward Sam that reminds Sam of a human. Sam knows the Baron’s look means that he knows who he is and he doesn’t want Sam to come close. This look is similar to how a human might look at someone in a similar situation.  |
| The author states that it takes a little time for woodland messages to get around. What message is Sam sending out?  | Sam wants to celebrate Halloween, so he leaves out piles of cracked nuts, smoked rabbit, and crayfish. The message is that there is a Halloween gathering at Sam’s camp. |
| Sam states, “Halloween was over at midnight last night, but for us it is just beginning.” What are the animals doing that make him feel this way? | Frightful is alert as animals, all around them, are moving around their campsite. Jessie C. James came for the venison. The red fox was near. |
| What does Sam realize after the raccoons break into his cache of acorns and beechnuts? Name three things Sam does to get rid of the animals.  | After the raccoons break into his cache of food Sam realizes that it is harder than he thought to get rid of the animals because they come back after he scares them. He also realizes he has been robbed of the food supply he had built for himself. To get of the animals Sam cashed the raccoons, he laced the door shut, he shouted at the fox, he threw wood on his fire to make it larger, and he shouted into the air again.  |
| Using the text and the illustration how does Sam feel about the animals in his camp after the raccoons break into his cache of food.  | Sam is first relieved that the raccoons are gone, but it quickly turns to anger. I know this because he shouts, “Stop laughing!” to the fox. Also the picture shows his face yelling and his arms are up in the air. He then feels good because the animals understood that he was the owner of the camp they were in. |
| What does the author mean by, “the fox vanished like a magician’s handkerchief?”  | When Sam shouts, “Stop laughing!” at the fox he runs away very quickly and is no longer seen. This relates to a magician making a handkerchief disappear as a trick so the audience can no longer see it.  |
| Sam states, “Never had there been a more real Halloween night.” Describe what happens as Sam tries to get rid of the animals that would make him think this.  | When the raccoons steal the food and Sam comes over they were not scared of him. They returned to the tree to continue eating and he couldn’t stop them. He then notices a red fox, which he thinks is smiling at him. He yells at the fox. He throws firewood on the fire, which sets up a huge shaft of light and he shouts again. He snarls like an animal at them. The animals in his camp back away and stare at him. The animals understood he was the mightiest or strongest among them. The mightiest in the forest is the strongest and the animals respect that.  |

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 | Bulbs/ tubers/ sedges Mantle Lure Jesses Tethered Venison Personification (not in text; but in question #2) | Indignity Scheme  |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**sufficient context clues are provided in the text | Blazed Fashion Funnel Toppling/ ventilate Lingering  | Resented  |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

1. What challenges does Sam face in surviving alone? How does he handle these challenges?

Answer: Sam faces not being prepared for the winter by not having the proper clothing and shelter. He faces loneliness in the woods. He handles these challenges by figuring out how to make a fireplace for warmth. He finds entertainment within the forest by observing the animals. He has frightful to talk to and play with.

2. What role does Frightful play in Sam’s survival?

Answer: Frightful provides Sam with friendship. Frightful helps Sam find food.

Additional Tasks

* Give an example of a simile or metaphor in the text. How does the author use each of these to describe parts in the book?

Answer: The author says the moon is “as big as a pumpkin and as orange.” This provides an image of the October moon and relates it to the holiday of Halloween.

* Sam describes the whereabouts of many different animals that live near his camp. What kinds of companionship does Sam have in the woods?

Answer: Sam has the companionship of Frightful, his falcon. He also has the Baron Weasel who lives nearby and he observes often. He has the animals in the forest who he watches.

* What role does nature play in Sam’s survival?

Answer: Sam needs the food that is supplied by the river and throughout the forest. Sam needs Frightful for friendship and for her to find him food. Sam needs the other animals for companionship.

* Considering the author’s use of personification, what are some examples and what role does it play in the story?

Answer: Sam is lonely so thinks about the elements of nature in terms of humans to help ease his loneliness.