Unit 5/Week 3

Title: *Talk with an Astronaut*

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards RI.5.1, RI.5.2, RI.5.3, RI.5.4; W.5.2, W.5.4, W.5.9; SL 5.1, SL.5.2; L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.4

Teacher Instructions

**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

It takes hard work and perseverance to achieve our goals. A role model can inspire us in our journey. We in turn can become a role model for others.

Synopsis

A group of fifth grade students interview the first Hispanic American astronaut, Ellen Ochoa. The interview is a question and answer format.

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** |
| This story is written in an interview format. How can you identify what questions are being asked and the answers provided?  | The questions are written in yellow and are asked by fifth grade students. There is a “Q” preceding the questions. The answers are written in white and are answered by Helena Ochoa. There is an “A” preceding her answers. |
| What does Ochoa state is the reason that her father did not teach them Spanish?  | He didn’t teach them Spanish because at the time “there was a prejudice against people speaking their native language.” |
| Why does the author begin the interview with these two questions? Support your answer with evidence from the text. | Both of the first two questions relate to the big idea of the entire passage; the importance of Ellen Ochoa’s Hispanic heritage in her upbringing and her accomplishments as the first Hispanic American woman to fly in space. |
| What have Ochoa’s accomplishments allowed her to do? Cite evidence.  | Her accomplishments have allowed her to speak with children and be a role model for Hispanic American children. |
| The fifth grade students ask, “Who do think was the most influential person in your life? “ Use words and phrases to determine the meaning of the word influential.  | Influential means someone who is important to you and has impacted you. Ochoa states that her mother is the most influential person in her life because of her hard work and dedication. |
| Ochoa states “That’s why it is important never to shut down your options.” Use evidence from the text to determine the meaning of this statement.  | “Never to shut down your options” means do not give up or settle. Your ideas and desires may change over time. Ochoa states that she changed her major five times and that she thought she would never be an astronaut. She did not discover she wanted to be an astronaut until graduate school. |
| Cause is why something happens and an effect is what happens as a result of the cause. What was the cause of Ochoa never considering being an astronaut when she was growing up? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.  | The cause was that there were no female astronaut role models. The first female astronauts weren’t selected until 1978. |
| Author’s purpose is the main reason the author writes a selection. Use details to determine the author’s purpose. | The author is writing this piece to inform us of Ochoa’s inspiring journey in becoming an astronaut. Also, the author is informing us of the hard work it takes to train and perform the missions. |
| According to the text, what is involved in the NASA training? | The training prepares the astronauts for “anything that could happen on a space mission”. They need to problem solve when things break and go wrong. Training lasts at least three years. |
| The fifth graders ask the question, “What is it like to float in zero gravity?” Use words and phrases to determine the meaning of “zero gravity”.  | Gravity means a natural force that causes objects to move and tend to move towards the center of the Earth. Zero gravity would mean the absence of gravity. Ochoa states she is weightless. |
| To compare is to state what is similar between two objects or events and to contrast is to tell how they are different. Compare and contrast the sleeping arrangements on Ochoa’s different missions. Use evidence to support your answer.  | Contrast: “On my first two missions we slept in two shifts in sleeping compartments that looked like coffins. On my last mission, we slept in a single shift in sleeping bags anchored to the wall.” Compare: Her dreaming during her missions was the same as it is on earth. |
| How do the pictures help us better understand Ochoa’s answer to the question “What does the earth look like from space?” | The photographs show the earth from space with vivid colors and detail. The shuttle is moving at 5 miles per second, I can see the shuttle and the different views of the Earth. |
| The author’s purpose is to inform people about Helen Ochoa. As I consider the author’s purpose, I want to read carefully to monitor my understanding. In addition to informing the reader, why did the author choose to write this in an interview format? | The author chose to write this in an interview format to entertain and engage the reader. The Helen’s personal narrative helps us hear about her journey in her own words. |
| How does technology help Ochoa stay in contact with her family while she is in space?  | She is able to email them and on missions longer than ten days, she has a video conference with them. |
| What is the main idea of Ochoa’s response to the last question about what it takes to prepare to be an astronaut? | The main idea is that you have to be good in math and science and you must also be a team player and a leader to become an astronaut. |

Vocabulary

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|  | **KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING** | **WORDS WORTH KNOWING**  |
| **TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION** not enough contextual clues provided in the text | Prejudice Primarily Focus Specific  | Gravity Sensations Relation Conference Inconceivable  |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**sufficient context clues are provided in the text | Accomplishments Role Model Influential Monitors Prevented Missions Zero gravity Compartments Essential   | Monitors Role model  |

Culminating Task

* Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
* *In Talk With An Astronaut the author shows us that it takes hard work and perseverance to achieve our goals. Using evidence from the text, cite at least three examples of how Ellen Ochoa demonstrated perseverance to achieve her goal of becoming an astronaut.*
	+ Sample Answer: In Talk with an Astronaut, the author shows that Ellen Ochoa achieved her goal of being an astronaut through hard work and perseverance. Ellen’s mother worked hard to raise children and go to college at the same time. This showed Ellen the importance of attending school and working towards a goal. Ellen herself attended college. After Ellen graduated from college, she went to train at NASA. Ellen started her training in 1990 and she “was in training for three years” before her first mission into space. Ellen states that, “we are trained to handle any problems that might come along.” The trainings are very difficult and a lot of work goes into preparing for space travel. “Some astronauts have waited 10, even 16 years before they finally go into space!” In addition, to the difficult training over many years, Ellen must also be away from her family for long periods of time. “On missions lasting more than ten days, we are allowed to visit with each other by having a video conference from space.” Through hard work and perseverance, Ellen Ochoa achieved her goal and is now a role model for others.

Additional Tasks

* Prezi: <http://prezi.com/ovwxxprboxjc/talk-with-an-astronaut/>
* Writing: Have students think about what they would like to be when they grow up or identify an important or interesting person in the community. Have students write questions they would ask and interview that person. Next, have students write an article about their interview using the same format of the story.
* Timeline: Use the paired text Women Astronauts and have students develop a timeline of women in space.
* Science/ NASA: This website is full of ideas to engage your student. You can even talk to astronauts in space! http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/teachingfromspace/students/ #.U6nX\_14q8cV
* Jeopardy: <https://jeopardylabs.com/play/talk-with-an-astronaut>
* Identify two main ideas and supporting details in this interview. Write your answer in a multi-paragraph response.
	+ Possible Answers: The main idea is: it takes hard work to achieve your goals in life. The supporting details are: Ochoa had to work hard in her training missions and in school. It is a hard balancing act being a mom and an astronaut. Another main idea is that you should always keep your options open because you never know how things will change. Ochoa states that in fifth grade she wanted to be president and did not think about being an astronaut until graduate school. She changed her major five times.
* Provide examples of the author’s purpose to inform and entertain the reader. Write a short answer to support your ideas.
	+ Possible Answers: The author informs us about Ellen Ochoa’s journey to become an astronaut with detailed information about her experiences, training and life. The author entertains us with the format of questions and answers. Since the questions are asked from fifth graders’ perspective, I am more interested and thinking about

questions I might ask.

* Discuss the theme of Talk with an Astronaut. Use reasons and evidence to support your answers. Write a multi-paragraph response.
	+ Possible Answer: The theme of Talk with an Astronaut is that it takes hard work and perseverance to achieve your goals. Also, role models can inspire you. Ellen Ochoa’s mother was one of her role models because of her hard work, support, dedication to her family and perseverance—graduating from college after 22 years. The other role models that influenced Ochoa were the first women astronauts that served in 1978.

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Theme:



 Supporting Details:

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