Unit 5/Week 1

Title: Fire!

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RI.4.1, RI.4.2, RI.4.3, RI.4.7; RF.4.3, RF.4.4; W.4.1, W.4.4, W.4.9; SL.4.1, SL.4.2; SL.4.4; L.4.1, L.4.2

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

Throughout history, firefighters have always been an important part of communities. The work is important to firefighters themselves along with the satisfaction of saving lives.

Synopsis

In this text, students learn about the daily role of a firefighter and the importance of firefighters in communities past and present.

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** |
| Using the main text and captions, identify and list some of the differences the author mentions between firefighting in big cities and small towns. | In big cities firefighters can answer a dozen calls a day, they stay at the fire station. In small towns many firefighters are volunteers. |
| If something is demanding, it requires much skill or effort. The author says that firefighting is “always challenging, always demanding… always thrilling.” What are three demanding things a firefighter does? | Checking equipment so they are always ready, being ready at night by sleeping at the fire station or with a beeper at your bedside, having the people you work with get on your nerves, and practicing. |
| What evidence explains why a firefighter has to be “always ready” and what do they have to do to make sure they are? | “People count on you to come the moment they call. But you never know when that call will happen, so you are always ready.”  You check your equipment. You check your equipment again.” “You might sleep at the fire station a few nights each month or you might sleep in your house with a beeper at your bedside.” |
| The author states that the station house is a second home to firefighters. What evidence can you cite to support that claim? | “The people you work with are more than just your co-workers. They are the people you trust with your life. They have become like family- brothers and sisters you love fiercely, even if sometimes you get on one another’s nerves.” |
| Each truck has a team. Using the text, describe the three assignments on each truck team. | The driver takes care of the rig, an officer is in charge of the crew, and the firefighters tackle the flames or mount the rescues. |
| List some reasons dispatch calls the fire department. | \*Teacher discuss: The 911 network is an important part of the community. This is how emergencies are communicated (dispatched) to firefighters.    If a child is locked in the bathroom, a car hit a stop sign, a pipe burst, a funny smell, and a cat got stuck in the wall. |
| The selection is titled “OUT OF CONTROL”, what are three things firefighters do to “control” the flames? | Possible answers: Cool the flames with attack hoses, set bigger discharge lines, ventilate the building by breaking windows or cutting holes in the roof, shovel up cinders and toss outside anything that might still burn, soak it until you can touch it with your bare hands so it won’t rekindle. |
| Use the text to explain why a firefighter doesn’t want to hear the word rekindle. | It means the fire has started back up and is not out. |
| Use evidence from the text to explain why “if you lived in the 1600’s you would have been a part of the firefighting force.” | It took the whole town to stop a blaze. Children would send the empty buckets back to be filled in a bucket brigade. |
| A Bucket Brigade consisted of two lines stretched from the town’s water source, everyone armed with a bucket. The men would fill the buckets and pass them toward the fire; the women and children would send the empty ones back to be filled. Was this an effective way to put out a fire? | No, it was not an effective way to put out fires. Most times it was too little water, too late |
| Houses were built close together as cities grew. Some houses were built out of flammable materials, why was this dangerous? | If houses were built out of flammable materials such as thatch, they caught on fire easily. Because they were close together, “when one caught on fire, dozens ended up burning.” |
| Who was the first female firefighter on record and when did she live? | “Molly Williams. She lived in the early 1700’s. |
| Using the text, explain the importance of the Rattle Watch. Why did these men wander the streets at night to watch for fires and what did they do when they spotted a fire? | Men were appointed to wander the streets at night to watch for fires.” “In the quickly growing cities, more and more houses were built, all packed in close together. When one caught on fire, dozens ended up burning”. The men “carried big wooden rattles that made an alarming sound when twirled”. |
| Ben Franklin was an amazing American. Explain his contribution to early American firefighting. What qualities did his volunteers bring to firefighting that exist to this day? | Ben Franklin formed the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia. His volunteers “brought with them a great sense of dedication and loyalty--the true spirit of firefighting to this day.” |
| What did Ben Franklin mean when he wrote his famous phrase, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” and why did he write it? Pull details from the text to support your answer. | Ben Franklin “frequently printed articles urging people to be more careful.” He didn’t want people to carry hot coals on a shovel from room to room. The coals could drop on the floor and start a fire.  If people are careful and keep from starting fires, there won’t be a need to put them out. |

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 | dispatch  brigade, hearth  curfew, flammable  prevention, dedication, loyalty | knocked down  forbidding, edler |
| **STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING**  sufficient context clues are provided in the text | dangerous  rig, shift  search and rescue  ventilate, overhaul, rekindle  gear | back stepper, fiercely  billowing  coal  ingredients  frequently, patriots  disaster, fire-resistant |

Culminating Task

* *Support the claim that firefighters have always been an important part of communities. Within your answer, you must cite 3-5 details from the text that help to prove your point.*

Answer:

* People call the fire department for more many reasons besides fighting fires. People call the department for help. For example, if a child is locked in a bathroom, a car hits a stop sign, a pipe bursts, a cat gets stuck inside of a wall, or if there is a funny smell, people can count on the firefighters for help.
* Fire fighters have always been an important part of communities because they are willing to drop everything and go to the scene of a fire to help the people in their towns. Fires have always been a danger communities have faced. Throughout time, volunteers have been needed to respond to fires.
* In the past, communities used a bucket brigade to help put out fires. People formed a line and passed buckets of water to the men standing.
* In the past and present, firefighters have shown a sense of dedication and loyalty. These are important qualities in all firefighters. As long as there are fires and accidents, firefighters will always be an important part of communities.

Additional Tasks

* *The text says Benjamin Franklin was one of the greatest Americans ever. Work with partners or small groups to trace Benjamin Franklin’s improvements on day-to-day life. Research more information (research suggestions below) about Benjamin Franklin and present findings to the class in one of the following ways:*
* Illustrate a Ben Franklin fact booklet
* Write a dialogue between Ben Franklin and community member from his time period where he gives important advice.
* Write a paragraph about a problem that could happen today if not for Ben Franklin’s improvements on day-to-day life.

Research sites archive: <http://www.benfranklin300.org/etc_websites.htm>

* *Have the students make the graphic organizer below. As students are reading and working with the story, have students record their thoughts on how firefighters now are both the same as they were in the past and how are they different.*

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| Similarities: |
| Firefighters today: |
| Firefighters in the past: |

* *Why was Benjamin Franklin an important person in firefighting history? Give specific examples.*

Answer: Franklin convinced citizens in Philadelphia to form the Union Fire Company. They were willing to drop everything they were doing to fight fires. This gave them a sense of loyalty and dedication, which is the true spirit of firefighters today. He also wrote articles urging people to be more careful and help prevent fires.

* *The author states that protective gear can mean the difference between a successful rescue and disaster. Research and discuss why each piece of equipment would be important when fighting a fire.*

Answers:

Hood--keeps hair covered and protected

Helmet--provides protection from heavy or burning objects

Eye shield/face mask--prevents fire and smoke from entering eyes and lungs

Fire tool--allows fire fighters to knock down or break through windows, walls, etc.

Regulator--provides the firefighter with clean air from the oxygen tank

Gloves--protects firefighters’ hands, allow them to touch hot things

Bunker pants--firefighters can put them on quickly (508) protects their bodies from fire

Boots--protects feet from heat, fire and falling heavy objects

Gear Pocket--holds any small tools firefighters might need

Pressure Gauge--shows how much air is left in tank

Walkie Talkie--allows communication between firefighters

Air Cylinder--provides the firefighter with clean air