Unit 1

Title: All Summer in A Day

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.5; W.6.2, W.6.4, W.6.9; SL.6.1; L.6.1, L.6.2, L.6.4, L.6.5

Teacher Instructions

**Preparing for 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

Envy can lead people to commit awful acts and cause internal shame.

Synopsis

“All Summer in A Day” takes place on the planet Venus in a future world where people have come to set up a civilization. On the planet Venus, as imagined by the author, the sun appears for only two hours every seven years. A class of nine-year-olds eagerly awaits a brief glimpse of the sun, especially one student named Margot.

1. Read the entire selection, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
2. Re-read the text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Tier II/academic vocabulary.

**During Teaching**

1. Students read the entire selection independently.
2. Teacher reads the text aloud while students follow along or students take turns reading aloud to each other. Depending on the text length and student need, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2 (\*See Note to Teacher #1). During this step students may use metacognitive markers to track responses to text and use those responses as a point of departure for talking or writing about the text; cueing system: use (?) for questions, use (!) for reactions, and (\*) for comments.
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions, continually 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** |
| Bradbury provides a vivid description of life on Venus. Describe the setting and how it affects the mood. Why does the author begin the story this way?  \*See Note to Teacher #2 and #3. | It was “non-stop rain for 7 years, thousands upon thousands of days” on Venus. “Storms are so heavy they were tidal waves” that “came over the islands”. The mood is dreary/ gloomy. The author begins the story this way to show how the setting contributes to the kids misery because of the constant influx of rain. |
| In the beginning of the story, “the children are pressed to each other like so many roses, so many weeds, intermixed peering out for a look at the hidden sun” through the window. How do these words by the author convey tone? Why does the author create this tone? | There is gloom on Venus but the children are excited to see the sun.  All of the children are excited about seeing the sun. In the beginning of the story the children are discussing the hope of being able to see the sun. By gathering so close together, the author creates a tone of excitement and high anticipation. The tone creates a similar reaction for readers. It creates a high anticipation. Readers want to know if the students on Venus are going to be able to see the sun. |
| What does the reader learn about Margot’s character? What does the author imply about Margot's character?  \*See Note to Teacher #6/7. | Margot is depressed and feels alone. She has been “weakened” by lack of sun. She is emotionally distraught because of nature, and her inner struggle with contending with her surroundings and peers. |
| Bradbury states, "She was an old photograph". What can the reader infer about how the other students view Margot based on the metaphor? | This paragraph explains how Margot looks to others, including the narrator. She is not like the other children who are vibrant, excited for their first glimpse at the sun. She is like an old photograph with no color. She continues to stand, “separate”. This is the author's 2nd time repeating the sentence of “Margot stood alone”. |
| “Aw, you didn’t write that!” and “What’re *you* looking at?” are the first responses that William utters to Margot. Why does William have these reactions? \*See Note to Teacher #8. | William is jealous of Margot’s experiences on Earth and her history of the sun. He is angry that he isn’t able to specifically articulate his feelings about the sun like she can because he never experienced the sun. |
| What evidence shows that it is *vital* for Margot to return to earth even though it may result in the loss of thousands of dollars to her family? | Margot is frail, depressed, doesn’t want to play games, stands alone silently and as a result has no friends. Even when songs are sang about the sun, she doesn’t raise her voice in singing; she only moves her lips. |
| *Consequence* in the context means “importance”. The levels of importance vary. Bradbury states, "and the children hated Margot for all the big and little consequences”. Some were not very important reasons while one was especially an important reason to the children. What are these “big and little consequences?” | Little consequence/importance – pale snow face, waiting, silence, thinness  Big consequence/importance – her possible future; she will be able to escape life without sun and return to Earth where she will grow. They will be left behind. |
| Bradbury states," the students surge about her" to shove Margot into the closet. What motivates them to do this act?  \*See Teacher Note #4 | The big and little consequence –her possible future. She remembers life on Earth, where she could see the sun most days and where rain wasn’t always pouring down the way it is on Venus. The other children are jealous of her memories, they don’t like her because she is different from them because of those memories. |
| Bradbury carefully chooses his words. Connotation means the emotional feeling attached to a word. What is the connotation of the words **surge**, **bore** and **protesting**?  \*See Teacher Note #5 | Bradbury's use of vocabulary creates intensity. For example, surge creates more intensity than flood, gush, or flow; bore creates intensity rather than surrounded; and protesting creates intensity rather than yelling or disputing. |
| What theme can be inferred by the students’ wicked smiling?  \*See Note to Teacher #9. | Students are wickedly happy to have Margot locked away by their own hands. Envy can lead people to commit awful acts. |
| Compare how the children walk away from the door when they push Margot into the closet with how the children walk back to the closet to let her out at the end. | They stood back, wickedly smiling, proud of their actions after shoving her in the closest. At the end of the story, they walk hesitantly to the door, stood at it with “lightning on their faces, blue and terrible, and slowly opened the door.” They realize the gravity of their actions. |
| Why are the children able to empathize with Margot at the end of the story? | They were able to experience the joy that the sun brought into their lives. They could also empathize with her noting “the girl”[…] “began to cry looking at it (rain)” once the sun vanishes. Additionally, the children stand in similar stance as Margot “like so many stakes, into the floor”. Now, “their faces were solemn and pale and they looked at their hands and feet, their faces down”. |
| (MC) The children have lived without the sun for 7 years. Why did “a boom of thunder startle them”? What is the **BEST** answer?   1. It shocks them back to the reality of their situation. 2. It makes them realize that lightning is dangerous. 3. They were afraid of the rain. 4. The thunder made them sad. | It shocks them back to the reality of their situation. It helps them to be able to share the same external conflict with Margot. |
| Differences between people often cause conflict. How does Margot contribute the conflict she is having with the other children? | Margot refuses to play games like tag with the other students, she does not sing songs in class about happiness and life, she responds to social situation awkwardly such as her shower incident, her depression doesn’t make her much fun to be around. |

Tier II/Academic Vocabulary

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|  | **These words require less time to learn**  (They are concrete or describe an object/event/  process/characteristic that is familiar to students) | **These words require more time to learn**  (They are abstract, have multiple meanings, are a part  of a word family, or are likely to appear again in future texts) |
| **Meaning can be learned from context** | slackening  seized  protested  muffled | crushed  savagely  savored  solemn |
| **Meaning needs to be provided** | concussion  civilization  stir  compounded  frail  vital  surged  resilient  tumultuously | consequence  bore  apparatus  repercussions |

Culminating Writing Task

* Prompt
  + *The theme of this story is that envy can lead people to commit awful acts and cause internal shame. Write an explanatory essay about how the conflicts the characters face develop that theme.*
* Teacher Instructions

1. Students complete an evidence chart as a pre-writing activity. Teachers should guide students in gathering and using any relevant notes they compiled while reading and answering the text-dependent questions earlier. Some students will need a good deal of help gathering this evidence, especially when this process is new and/or the text is challenging!

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| ***Evidence***  ***Quote or paraphrase*** | ***Elaboration / explanation of how this evidence supports ideas or argument*** |
| "Margot stood apart” | Margot is depressed and feels alone. She has been “weakened” by lack of sun. She is emotionally distraught because of nature, and her inner struggle with contending with her surroundings and peers. Her behavior causes her peers to ostracize her. |
| "so after that, {…} she sensed it, she was different and they knew her differences and kept away” | Margot is depressed and feels alone. She has been “weakened” by lack of sun. She is emotionally distraught because of nature, and her inner struggle with contending with her surroundings and peers. Her behavior causes her peers to ostracize her. |
| "Margot stood alone" "They edged away from her; they would not look at her." | She is not like the other children who are vibrant, excited for their first glimpse at the sun. Instead, she continues to stand, “separate”. |
| “Aw, you didn’t write that!” and “What’re *you* looking at?” | William is jealous of Margot’s experiences on Earth and her history of the sun. He is angry that he isn’t able to specifically articulate his feelings about the sun like she can because he never experienced the sun. |
| “They surged about her, caught her up and bore her, protesting, and then pleading, and then crying, back into a tunnel, a room, a closet, where they slammed and locked the door.” | At the end of the story the children regret locking Margot in the closet. The children felt remorseful about locking Margot in the closet but they could not change their actions or give Margot the experience they had with sun. |
| "They walked over to the closet door slowly and stood by it." | The children felt remorseful about locking Margot in the closet but they could not change their actions or give Margot the experience they had with sun. |

1. Once students have completed the evidence chart, they should look back at the writing prompt in order to remind themselves what kind of response they are writing (i.e. expository, analytical, argumentative) and think about the evidence they found. (Depending on the grade level, teachers may want to review students’ evidence charts in some way to ensure accuracy.) From here, students should develop a specific thesis statement. This could be done independently, with a partner, small group, or the entire class. Consider directing students to the following sites to learn more about thesis statements: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/ OR http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/ thesis\_statement.shtml.
2. Students compose a rough draft. With regard to grade level and student ability, teachers should decide how much scaffolding they will provide during this process (i.e. modeling, showing example pieces, sharing work as students go).
3. Students complete final draft.

* Sample Answer

“So after that, dimly, dimly, she sensed it, she was different, and they knew her difference and kept away. Can you imagine living on a planet where the sun only comes out for a few hours every seven years? The children who grew up on Venus were used to this, but for Margot who remembers something very different, life is unbearable. The differences between Margot and her peers lead to envy, awful acts, and internal shame.

Margot is a nine year old girl who was born on Earth and moves to Mars at the age of four. Unlike the other children on the planet, Margot remembers the sun. This vivid memory causes her to experience deep depression, which leads to isolation from her peers. Bradbury states, “Margot stood apart from them, from these children who could never remember a time when there wasn’t rain and rain and rain.”

Margot has become so depressed that she refuses to interact with the other children. The children attempt to play tag with her and all she is able to do is stand there and blink after them. When the other students are singing songs about happiness and life, her lips barely move. “They edged away from her; they would not look at her. She felt them go away.”

When Margot shares her memories of the sun in a poem, the other children become jealous. “Aw you didn’t write that!” When it is time for the sun to come out the children decided to lock Margot up in a closet. “They surged about her, caught her up and bore her, protesting, and then pleading, and then crying, back into a tunnel, a room, a closet, where they slammed and locked the door.”

After the children experience the sun for themselves, they are better able to understand Margot. When they realize they’ve forgotten about her and she is still locked in the closet they feel shame. "They walked over to the closet door slowly and stood by it." They realize that their jealousy has allowed them to commit a terrible act.

Additional Tasks

* *Authors use figurative language to make readers see familiar things in a new way. Given a list of quotations from the figurative language Bradbury used, choose three that expresses how Margot sees the sun. Then, explain what Margot means by each statement.* 
  + Answer

Margot describes the sun in various ways: She states, **“I think the sun is a flower that blooms for just one hour”**. This means that she thinks the sun is beautiful and brings something lovely into her life similar to how a flower will make someone feel when they see it or get it. The sun only stays for an hour (a short period of time) and this isn’t enough time for Margot. She is used to the sun shining brightly for a longer amount of time because she is from Earth. The other quote is **“It’s just like a penny”.**  Pennies are round and copper colored. This is probably what Margot is referring to when she says this. Margot also says that **“It’s just like a fire in a stove”.** Margot knows the sun is hot and can she can get really warm because of it. It has sun rays that are very hot. Maybe she can remember a time when her ice cream melt when she was in the hot sun.

* *Considering the conflicts that Margot & the other students face, argue whether or not the reader should empathize with the students at the end of “All Summer In A Day”.* 
  + Answer

Yes Response – I think the reader should empathize with the students. The students have to live with the consequences of their actions. They know that if Margot stays on Venus she will not be able to experience the wonders and joy of the sun for another 7 years. After having that experience themselves, they now understand how Margot feels and why she is so sad without the sun.

No Response – I don’t think that the reader should empathize with the students. The students knew what they were doing and were happy in doing so. They smiled as she pleaded, cried, and threw herself against the closet door trying to get out. They knew how much this day meant to her and they purposely took it away from her. Because of this, not only should the reader not empathize with them, but the students should be receive consequences for their actions. Internal conflict is not enough.

* Compare and contrast your experience of All Summer in A Day using the short story and the short movie. Provide text evidence to support your expressions. Video [Note: the original link included is no longer accessible; there are short movies available for use on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).]
  + Answer: In the short story, the reader was moved to pity Margot due to her pitiful state. William was not a likable character and the children appeared to lacking natural affection. The teacher, with only one line, and parents were minor characters in the story. The teacher was a more integral part and the parents were not referenced in the movie. Although poised with unique experiences as a child from Earth, Margot didn’t apply that knowledge very lucidly in the story. In the short movie, the music played a role in the development of the tone/mood. Margot was only a “black spot” on the video for the first five minutes showing how she “stood alone”. Her unwillingness to be “touched” by the rain was evident when she appeared clearly after the bell on her way to school. She exited the cover and walking side ways she tried to avoid it. Margot was very talkative, spoke her mind and was not quiet, timid or reserved as she was in the short story. The teacher had more of a responsibility and acted as an anchor for William’s behavior. Through the reactions of the teacher’s lack of professional care and courtesy and her favoritism towards Margot, it was clear why William “hated her so much”. Margot had Paula in the movie that she could talk to, versus having no friends in the short story. All of the students gathered flowers when they noticed the weather beginning to change. The flowers were a representation of their memory in the sun for the day. Paula realized that Margot was not with them. The children banned together to show their separation from William’s idea of putting her in the closet. In the movie, William walked and opened the door while the children were waiting in the distance; whereas in the short story, all the children went to release Margot from her captivity. The children willingly gave Margot their flowers while William stood alone. Margot walked over to William, indicating her empathy for his feelings. She took his flowers for herself, as a subtle ode to her “being right”. The movie ends with all of the children connecting with Margot as never before. The short story ends with much to be left to the imagination.

Note to Teacher

1. During this step students may use metacognitive markers to track responses to text and use those responses as a point of departure for talking or writing about the text; cueing system: use (?) for questions, (!) for reactions, and (\*) for comments.
2. Share how the rain could affect the view of “time” on Venus. There is a saying that “time” can be your friend, usually because you are able to do what you want to do, enjoy yourself and have fun. Is “time” a friend on Venus?
3. “Storms are so heavy they were tidal waves” suggests that the rain is unbearable and difficult to endure.
4. If the theme can be summed up in one word – what word would you use? Encourage students to share the reason for their choice.
5. The image of a class full of students surrounding Margot, a frail student, can be compared to a wolf-pack surrounding its prey. How does Bradbury’s word choice develop the intensity of the conflict?
6. “Margot stood apart from them, from these children who could never remember a time when there wasn’t rain”. Explain to students that the connotation provided through the phrase, “from these children” provide details of Margot’s feelings of separation. As the paragraph unfolds, Bradbury provides details as to why Margot feels as if she is unable to connect to them. Her longing for her past distances her from her peers.
7. Use question #3 to teach students how to count paragraphs in a fiction text with dialogue.
8. Margot is sad although “today” there is talk about seeing the sun. Encourage students to infer how the strong possibility of seeing the sun has not helped internally and the conflict within still haunts her. Utilize Margot’s poem “the sun is a flower that blooms for *just* one hour”. Discuss how Margot’s expression *just* impacts her feelings. Additionally, Margot is familiar with the work of scientists. Margot states “but this is the day, the scientists predict […]”. Again she should be happy…why not?
9. Explain to students the metaphor connection of the atmosphere to the 1st column 1st paragraph across the page that relates to Margot’s cries, muffles, feelings of being left in the closet. Highlight the vocabulary words – apparatus and repercussions and how they relate to the context.

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**All Summer in a Day**

1. Bradbury provides a vivid description of life on Venus. Describe the setting and how it affects the mood. Why does the author begin the story this way?
2. In the beginning of the story, “the children are pressed to each other like so many roses, so many weeds, intermixed peering out for a look at the hidden sun” through the window. How do these words by the author convey tone? Why does the author create this tone?
3. What does the reader learn about Margot’s character? What does the author imply about Margot's character?
4. Bradbury states, "She was an old photograph". What can the reader infer about how the other students view Margot based on the metaphor?

1. “Aw, you didn’t write that!” and “What’re *you* looking at?” are the first responses that William utters to Margot. Why does William have these reactions?
2. What evidence shows that it is *vital* for Margot to return to earth even though it may result in the loss of thousands of dollars to her family?
3. *Consequence* in the context means “importance”. The levels of importance vary. Bradbury states, "and the children hated Margot for all the big and little consequences”. Some were not very important reasons while one was especially an important reason to the children. What are these “big and little consequences?”
4. Bradbury states," the students surge about her" to shove Margot into the closet. What motivates them to do this act?
5. Bradbury carefully chooses his words. Connotation means the emotional feeling attached to a word. What is the connotation of the words **surge**, **bore** and **protesting**?

1. What theme can be inferred by the students’ wicked smiling?
2. Compare how the children walk away from the door when they push Margot into the closet with how the children walk back to the closet to let her out at the end.
3. Why are the children able to empathize with Margot at the end of the story?
4. The children have lived without the sun for 7 years. Why did “a boom of thunder startle them”? What is the **BEST** answer?
5. It shocks them back to the reality of their situation.
6. It makes them realize that lightning is dangerous.
7. They were afraid of the rain.
8. The thunder made them sad.
9. Differences between people often cause conflict. How does Margot contribute the conflict she is having with the other children?