

Day 3: "Why The Dog Hates the Cat"

Begin lesson

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Begin lesson

Teaching notes

Click the "Begin lesson" button to view this lesson.
Teaching notes for each slide will appear in this box.

Before the Lesson

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Before the
Lesson

Teaching notes

Anchor Text

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Teaching notes

Download and print copies of the anchor text for each student.

Student Notes Sheet

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Teaching notes

- This guided notes sheet provides students with the text-dependent questions associated with this lesson, and relevant graphic organizers. You may modify these sheets as needed.
- During class, students can use these sheets to record their responses, notes, or ideas. Use the back to record responses to the focus question.
- Following class, collect student notes to use as a

formative assessment.

Getting Started

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Getting Started

Teaching notes

Introduction 1 of 3

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Why the Dog Hates the Cat

From A Chinese Wanderbook
By Norman Hinsdale Pitman
Illustrated by Li Cho-Tung

"What we shall eat tomorrow, I haven't the slightest idea!" said Widow Wang to her oldest son, as he started out one morning in search of work.

"Oh, the gods will provide. I'll find a few pennies somewhere," replied the boy, trying to speak cheerfully, although in his heart he also had no idea in which direction to turn.

The winter had been a hard one: extreme cold, deep snow, and violent winds. The Wang house had suffered greatly. The roof had fallen in, weighed down by heavy snow. Then a hurricane had blown a wall over, and Ming's, the son, up all night and exposed to a bitter cold wind, had caught pneumonia. Long days of illness followed, with the spending of extra money for medicine. All their scant savings had soon melted away, and at the shop where Ming's had once worked his place was filled by another. When at last he came from his sick-bed he was too weak for hard labor and there seemed to be no work in the neighboring villages for him to do. Night after night he came home, trying not to be discouraged, but in his heart feeling the deep pang of sorrow at the sight of his mother suffering for food and clothing.

"Bless his good heart!" said the poor widow after he had gone. "No mother ever had a better boy. I hope he is right in saying the gods will provide. It has been getting so much worse these past few weeks."

Why the Dog Hates the Cat

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~20 minutes

Notes:

- "Why the Dog Hates the Cat"
- By: Norman Hinsdale Pitman

- Remind students that this week, you are reading the story, "Why the Dog Hates the Cat" closely. This means going back and rereading the article, answering questions based on evidence in the text.
- Make sure that students have their copy of the article and the student notes worksheet.

- Read aloud the first section of the text in which Widow Wang complains about being hungry.
- Independently or in partners, students should read the section in which the Chus plot to steal the beetle and the section after the Wangs discover the beetle is missing.

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"It's the best stuff I ever ate," said Mr. Chu, as they entered their own tumble-down house.

"Yes, and I know where it came from," exclaimed his wife. "I saw Widow Wang take a little gold jar out of the pot and hide it in a cupboard. It must be some sort of charm, for I heard her mumbling to herself about pork and dumplings just as she was stirring up the fire."

"A charm, eh? Why is it that other people have all the luck? It looks as if we were doomed forever to be poor."

"Why not borrow Mrs. Wang's charm for a few days until we can add a little meat to our own bones? Of course, we'll return it sooner or later."

"Doubtless they keep every close watch over it. When would you find them away from home, now that they don't have to work any more? As their house only contains one room, and that no bigger than ours, it would be difficult to borrow this golden trinket."

"Luck is surely with us," cried Mrs. Chu, clapping her hands. "The Wangs are going out to the fair today. I overheard Mrs. Wang tell her son that he must not forget. I will slip back then and borrow the little charm from the box in which she hid it."

- We will reread three sections of the text
- When the Wangs are hungry--before and after the beetle
- When the Chus are hungry

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~20 minutes

Notes:

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- Make sure that students have their copy of the article and the student notes worksheet.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Student notes for "Why the Dog Hates the Cat"

Step 1

1. How does the Widow Wang respond when she and Wang are hungry?

2. How do the Chus respond when they are hungry?

3. How does the Widow Wang respond when she and Wang take the beetle?

4. How do the characters' responses differ or affect?

- As we explore the text we will be asking and answering questions.
- We will find and keep track of evidence from the text to support our ideas about each question.

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~20 minutes

Notes:

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- Make sure that students have their copy of the article and the student notes worksheet.

- Read aloud the first section of the text in which Widow Wang complains about being hungry.
- Independently or in partners, students should read the section in which the Chus plot to steal the beetle and the section after the Wangs discover the beetle is missing.

Exploring the Text

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**Exploring the
Text**

Teaching notes

Supporting Question 1

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How does the Widow Wang respond when she and Ming-Li are hungry?

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~3 minutes

Standard: RL.5.3

Purpose: This question asks students to identify the Widow's response in order to compare and contrast it to the Chus. It is designed to build to the key understanding that these three characters respond in a similarly poor fashion to each of the challenges they face.

Answer:

- The Widow Wang cries out turning to her son and says, "What shall we eat tomorrow, I haven't the slightest idea!" However, she doesn't do anything about it.
- Later, when Ming-Li goes out for work she says he is such a great son, but again, does nothing to help improve the situation.

Look for students....

- To identify the Widow's reaction to the challenge of being hungry.
- To identify and explain how her interactions with Ming-Li show that she is selfish, expecting him to solve their problem.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What is the Widow Wang's response to the challenge she faces?"
- Ask, "What does she do about the challenge?"
- Say, "What does the Widow's response reveal about her character in difficult times?"

Additional Notes:

- Use this question to orient students to the day's lesson as well as a way to activate prior knowledge, as this section of text was earlier utilized to establish the relationship between mother and son. This is a great opportunity for a stop and jot or a think-pair-share as it is a chance for students to work together to recall and repurpose details from the text.

Supporting Question 2

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How do the Chus respond when they are hungry?

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~3 minutes

Standard: RL.5.2

Purpose: This question is designed to help students see further that the trend of acting poorly when faced with a challenge is not unique to the Widow, which ultimately begins to build to the key understanding of the lesson and of the text.

Answer:

- The Chus decide to "borrow" the golden beetle without asking the Wangs, therefore stealing the item the Wangs need to survive. They do not ask for help, nor do they do any hard work.
- On page 7, Pitman writes:

"Yes, and I know where it came from," exclaimed his wife. "I saw Widow Wang take a little gold toy out of the pot and hide it in a cupboard. It must be some sort of charm, for I heard her mumbling to herself about pork and dumplings just as she was stirring up the fire."

"Why not borrow Mrs. Wang's charm for a few days until we can add a little meat to our own bones? Of course, we'll return it sooner or later."

"Doubtless they keep very close watch over it. When would you find them away from home, now that they don't have to work any more? As their house only contains one room, and that no bigger than ours, it would be difficult to borrow this golden trinket."

Look for students....

- To recognize that the Chus respond to their challenge of being poor and hungry very selfishly by stealing.
- To see that this is similar to how the Widow Wang responded to her challenge.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What do the Chus say after they have dinner at the Wangs?"
- Ask, "What are the Chus worried about in their own lives? What is their big problem?"
- Ask, "What do the Chus decide to do in response to their big problem?"
- Say, "What can we determine about how the Chus respond to challenging circumstances?"

Additional Notes:

- Use this to continue to scaffold student understanding toward the overall theme of the text that characters respond poorly when faced with challenging circumstances. This question can be completed in partners or small groups.

Supporting Question 3

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How does the Widow Wang respond when she and Ming-Li lose the beetle?

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~3 minutes

Standard: RL.5.2

Purpose: This question is designed to help students see that the poor response to challenges is a pattern in both the story and in Pitman's view of the world at large.

Answer:

- The Widow Wang responds with great yelling and weeping, going back to the box ten times to look for it.
- Pitman writes, "Great was the yelling and weeping when, on returning from the fair, hungry for a hot meal, the widow found her treasure missing. She went back to the little box in the cupboard ten times before she could believe it was empty, and the room looked as if a cyclone had struck it, so long and carefully did the mother and son hunt for the lost beetle."
- There was great sadness and hunger.

Look for students....

- To explain using specific text evidence how the widow responds to the missing beetle.
- To identify that, again, she does not do anything other than open the box and search the house (ie.g. she does not search for work, etc.) to help to improve her fortune.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "What happens when the Widow Wang realizes the beetle is gone?"
- Ask, "What does the Widow Wang do when she discovers the beetle is missing?"
- Say, "How does the Widow respond to this challenge? Is it similar or different than her response the first time she was hungry?"

Additional Notes:

Use this as an opportunity to reinforce the trend of characters acting apathetically or poorly when faced with challenges. Students can complete this in partners or through a stop and jot.

Supporting Question 4

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How are the the characters' responses similar or different?

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~2 minutes

Standard: RL.5.3

Purpose: This question is designed to get students thinking about the fact that the similar and equally despicable responses of the Widow Wang and the Chus illustrate Pitman's belief and the theme of the story that in general, people act rather rottenly when faced with challenging circumstances.

Answer:

- Both the Widow Wang and the Chus complain about their challenges (e.g. the Widow cries out about being hungry, but watches her son go out for work and the Chus complain about how their friends have all the luck).
- Both the Widow Wang and the Chus take the easy way out (i.e. she complains to Ming-Li and stays inside while he goes out repeatedly for work, they steal the golden beetle).

Look for students....

- To use specific text evidence to compare/contrast the characters' responses
- To conclude that when faced with challenges both parties act rather rottenly.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "How are the responses similar?"
- Ask, "How are the responses different?"
- Say, "What does this help you infer about most people?"

Additional Notes:

Use this question to scaffold students to the open-ended focus question. This question is intended to have students warmed up to independently complete the final question of today's work and to be set up for the final focus question on day five. This question can be completed independently as a stop and jot or in partners as a think-pair-share.

Focus Question

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Focus Question

Teaching notes

Focus Question

Card 15 of 17

How do the Chus and Widow Wang respond to challenges in "Why the Cat Hates the Dog?"

Teaching notes

Pacing: ~15 minutes

Standard: RL.5.2

Purpose: As we continue to build the scaffold for students to fully understand Pitman's message that in general, people tend to have selfish and unprincipled responses to challenging situations. After spending days one and two focused on

specific scenes, this question seeks to get students to think across the text to really understand the trends among character responses and to build an understanding of Pitman's overall message.

Answer:

Character(s):	Situation:	Response:
Widow Wang	At the beginning of the story, there is no money or food, and she and Ming-Li are hungry.	Turns to her son, who is sick, to solve the problem, she asks Ming-Li, "what we shall eat tomorrow, I haven't the slightest idea!" and expects him to go out and find work and food for them instead of working hard herself.
The Chus	Are hungry and jealous of the Wangs after going to a delicious dinner at their house.	Instead of working hard, or even asking for help from the Wangs, the Chus decide to "borrow" the beetle. In their hunger and selfishness, they steal a valuable possession from two of their closest friends.
Widow Wang	After the beetle that the monk has given was stolen by the Chus, the Wangs are again hungry.	The Widow again cries out, yelling and searching high and low in her home. However she does not take any action to look for work.

When faced with challenging circumstances both the Chus and the Widow Wang act in a way that is selfish and unkind. At the beginning of the story, the Widow Wang calls out and complains to her son, but does nothing to solve the problem except him to solve it for her by finding work. In the middle of the story, the Chus steal the golden beetle in order to help with their own poverty, selfishly stealing from their friends. In the end, after the beetle is stolen, the Widow Wang again acts selfishly by crying and complaining, but not doing anything to help her son or their pets.

Look for students....

- To use specific text examples to illustrate how characters respond to challenges.
- To identify the pattern of acting selfishly when facing challenges as is illustrated throughout the text.

Guiding questions and prompts:

- Ask, "How does the Widow Wang act when she is hungry?"
- Ask, "How do the Chus solve the problem of their own hunger?"
- Ask, "How does the Widow respond when the beetle is stolen?"
- Ask, "How are the reactions similar or different?"

Additional Notes:

- Students should use the text and their text-based notes to fill in the chart and answer the synthesis question independently.
- Give students time to return to the text to gather evidence. Encourage them to reread the section and to annotate while doing so.
- The response should be in writing so the teacher can assess each student's understanding.

- Beyond the expectation modeled in this response, a student may draw further connections through other dialogue, interactions, and challenges in the text.

After the Lesson

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Teaching notes

After the Lesson

Comprehension Skill Video

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Teaching notes

Use this video as an intervention tool for students who struggle to answer the focus question. The video uses a metacognitive approach to model the targeted reading comprehension skills.

Core Lesson

Reread the text listing how characters respond to challenges.

"A charm, eh? Why is it that other people have all the luck? It looks as if we were doomed forever to be poor."	How do characters respond?
"Why not borrow Mrs. Wang's charm for a few days until we can add a little meat to our own bones? Of course, we'll return it soon after."	Widow Wang complains about the situation, but she does not try to work to solve the problem. She just talks.
"Doubtless they keep very close watch over it. When they are away from home, now that they don't have to go to their house only contains one room, and that so small, it would be difficult to borrow the golden trinket."	
"Luck is surely with us," cried Mrs. Chu, clapping her hands. "Wang and Wang are going out to the fair today. I overheard Mrs. Wang say that he must not forget. I will slip back then and steal the charm from the box in which she hid it."	How do characters respond?
"The beetle is missing, and they are as poor and hungry."	

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