

Unit 5/Week 3

Title: Black Cowboy, Wild Horses

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.4, RL.5.10; RF.5.3, RF.5.4; W.5.2, W.5.4; SL.5.1;
L.5.1, L.5.2, L.5.4, L.5.5

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

Patience and perseverance can help achieve a goal.

Synopsis

Bob Lemmons, an African American cowboy, uses his skills of reading the land and the horses to imbed himself in a herd of wild mustangs. Once there, he is able to lead the herd back to a corral at the ranch.

2. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
3. 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

Text Dependent Questions	Answers
A bluff is a high steep bank. Use the text and illustration on page 525 to describe what Bob can see from the bluff.	"He looked down at the corral where the other cowboys were beginning the morning chores." (p. 525) The illustration shows the various farm buildings, horses in corrals, and cowboys working.
The author shows us that Bob's life on the range is not easy. What clues from the text demonstrate this? (Pgs. 525-529)	Bob is up and working at dawn. "First Light. Bob Lemmons rode his horse slowly up the rise." (p.525) Although it was cold, he "could not make a fire. The mustangs would smell the smoke in his clothes from miles away." (p.526)
Choose one of the similes or metaphors on page 525 and explain what it means.	"land stretching as wide as love" = unending plains "suspended on cold threads" = gliding "land and sky kissed" = horizon
Reread page 526. What does it mean when the author says that Bob could not read words, but he could read the ground. What information was he able to attain by reading the ground?	Because he had been a slave, Bob had never learned to read. Bob learned that there was a "herd of eight mares, a colt, and a stallion." "They had passed there two days ago." (p. 526)
Bob was anxious to see the mustangs, but he was patient and did not rush after them. Why?	Bob needed to smell like a wild creature in order for the mustangs to accept him. To do this, he must spend time in

	nature away from the smells of men “He needed to smell of sun, moon, stars, and wind before the mustangs would accept him.” (p. 526)
What other traits describe Bob? Use evidence from his first day away from the corral, as he guides Warrior down the bluff, to support your answer. (Pg. 526)	He is careful, as he guided Warrior “slowly” down the bluff. Bob is focused, as he is “peering intently at the ground.” Bob is confident and relaxed when he is “quickly asleep” in the tall grasses. And he is patient, as he follows the tracks all day “without hurrying.”
How can we tell that Bob has herded wild mustangs many times before?	Bob knows how to read the tracks. Even without the tracks, he knows where the mustangs will probably go and what they will do. He knows where to wait for the horses and how to keep from scaring them.
Which of Bob’s traits is exemplified in the first two paragraphs on page 532? What examples in the text show us this?	Bob is patient. He moved Warrior “slowly, without a sound or dust.” As soon as he saw the Mustangs grazing, he stopped. He continued to move slowing and to stop whenever he sensed the stallion might notice him. He watched the herd all day and only moved when they moved.
Reread page 535. After the colt is killed by the rattlesnake, how does the author show that the horses are agitated by this incident? How does Bob use the death of the colt to his advantage?	“The horses whinnied and pranced nervously.” “The mustangs milled aimlessly. The colt’s mother whinnied, refusing to leave the side of her colt.” (p. 535) Bob used this time to challenge the stallion. He knew that right after the colt died, the stallion would not have the heart to put up a good fight.
How does the author show us that the Stallion (an adult male horse) is the leader of the herd? (Pgs. 530-535)	“If the stallion smelled anything new, he and the herd would be gone and Bob would never find them again.” p.530 When Bob and Warrior joined the herd “The stallion eyed them for a moment. Then, as if to test this new comer, he led the herd off in a gallop.” p.532 After the death of the colt, “The stallion wanted to move the herd from there, and pushed the mare with his head.” p.535

<p>Reread page 537. In your own words describe how Bob took over the herd.</p>	<p>Bob surprised the stallion by having Warrior rear up on his back legs. The two horses fought each other using their front legs and their teeth. After striking again and again, Warrior pushed the stallion and it lost its footing and fell. The stallion then scrambled to its feet and trotted away.</p>
<p>On page 529, the author uses similes that include words like grief, remorse (regret for a wrong committed) and fear. What are the similes and what might the author be telling us about Bob's life on the range?</p>	<p>"Near dusk, clouds appeared, piled atop each other, like mountains made of fear. ... The rain came as hard and as stinging as remorse. ... The clouds thinned, and there, high in the sky, the moon appeared as white as grief." These words indicate that life on the range might be difficult and frightening.</p>
<p>Reread page 541. How do you think Bob feels about bringing the mustangs into the corral? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.</p>	<p>Bob likely feels remorse about corralling the mustangs. He rode away from the corralled horses and stopped and stared out at the plain. When Warrior "reared and whinnied loudly" Bob responded with "I know. Maybe someday." (p.541)The author tells us Bob thinks that maybe someday he and Warrior "would ride with the mustangs, ride to that forever place where land and sky kissed, and then ride on." (p.541) This indicates that Bob values his freedom and that he would like to ride freely with the mustangs instead of leading them to the corral.</p>

Vocabulary

	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	Page 525 - bluff Page 526 - stallion Page 529 - remorse	Page 525 - suspended Page 535 - pranced Page 535 - descending Page 535 - feebly Page 537 - fetlocks
STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING sufficient context clues are provided in the text	Page 526 - corral Page 526 - mustangs	Page 525 - corral Page 526 - vastness, reared Page 526 - herd Page 526 - intently Page 526 - dismounted Page 529 - ravine Page 529 - sensing, sensed Page 525 - milled

Culminating Tasks

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

1. *Many times throughout the story, Bob displays patience to attain his goal. Give examples from the text that show Bob acting patient and why this patience helps him reach his goal.*

Answer: Though Warrior wanted to “run across the vastness,” Bob made him go slowly. This enabled Bob to find the tracks that would eventually lead him to the herd of mustangs. Bob was anxious to see the herd, but he took the time to “smell of sun, moon, stars, and wind.” This made it so that the herd would accept him. Bob followed the herd slowly and stopped far away. Because he did this, he was able to gauge when was the correct time to approach the herd. Had he, “come too close, too soon,” the stallion would lead the herd away and Bob would never catch them. As Bob finally joined the herd, he moved Warrior “slowly, without sound, without dust.” This made it so the mustangs did not get frightened or even notice that Bob was among them. Once he was in the herd, he was able to wait for the right moment to challenge the stallion and take over the herd.

2. *Perseverance means to continue on a course of action even in the face of difficulty. Give examples from the text that show that Bob persevered.*

Answer: Bob’s first night out was a cold one. Even though lighting a fire would have made it more comfortable, he did not light one because the mustangs would smell the smoke, and he would not be accepted by the herd. There was a frightening storm but Bob did not turn back. He simply put his poncho on and waited out the storm on Warrior’s back. Bob was not deterred during the fight with the stallion. He continued to have Warrior charge until the stallion walked away from the herd and he was able to take it over.

Additional Task

1. *The Author uses several similes and metaphors throughout the story. Choose two of them and explain what the author is showing with that simile or metaphor.*

Answer:

- “the land stretching as wide as love in every direction” This gives the reader a vivid picture of the vastness of the area where Bob lives.
- “clouds appeared, piled atop each other like mountains made of fear” This shows that it is a dangerous storm and sets a tense mood.
- “Bob saw the rattler, as beautiful as a necklace...” This shows that, though the rattler is a deadly animal, Bob views it as a thing of beauty and an important part of the natural order. The author shows the same thing with the simile.
- “The vultures were descending from the sky as gracefully as dusk.” He portrays the scavengers as graceful to show that they too play an important part in the natural order.
- “The mustangs followed as if being led on ropes.” This shows that the mustangs accepted Bob as their new leader and followed him easily.