

## Unit 5/Week 1

Title: A Boy Called Slow

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.3, RL.5.4, RF.5.3, RF.5.4, W.5.2, W.5.4, W.5.9, SL.5.1, SL.5.2, L.5.4, L.5.5, L.5.6

### 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

It is our actions that show others who we are and of what we are capable.

Integrity, determination, and hard work earn respect.

Customs and traditions help to forge a group's identity.

#### Synopsis

Tradition in the Lakota Sioux involves giving a name to a child based on his actions. A young child moves slowly in all he does, earning the name 'Slow' from his family. He does not like that name and is determined to change it. After demonstrating bravery and determination during battle he then earns a new name, Sitting Bull. This same man later becomes the

respected chief of the Lakota Sioux.

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

<b>Text Dependent Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
Reread page 472. What examples are given to demonstrate how the boy earns the name, "Slow"?	He takes too long to eat; he only looks at his mother when she calls him to "Come here, quickly!" - "He never did anything quickly"
Why does Four Horns call horses by the name "Spirit Dogs"? (Page 472)	Dogs were a valuable and necessary part of tribal life: they had been used to help the tribe pull their travois and hunt buffalo and they were faithful to the men. Their creator, Wakan-Tanka, sent the men a new animal "as faithful as our dogs" to pull the loads and they also could carry the men.
Reread page 475. How does Slow show that he understands his Father's words, "The best way to gain the respect of your people is to be both brave and wise"?	By the time he was seven (he reached his seventh winter), he was one of the strongest boys in the tribe and he was the most at ease of the small children on the back of a pony. Both of

	those traits are important to a warrior in the tribe.
Reread pages 476-477. Why did Returns Again stop the other men from reaching for their weapons when they heard someone approaching as they camped at night?	He listened to animals and knew that the approaching sounds of muttering were not a threat, but instead was a big bull buffalo. He listened as the bull passed them and continued on out of sight and then received four new names from the bull.
Reread page 478. "His name now meant determination and courage to those who knew him." Originally, he was given the name "Slow" because of the speed with which he accomplished tasks. What event led to this change in what his name now meant?	At the age of ten, he killed his first buffalo – a calf. His mother and two of his sisters took the skin and made it into a robe for him to wear so others could see. (It may be important to guide students to the understanding that Slow's name had not changed yet, but only what it had meant.)
On page 480 and 482, the word 'coup stick' is used. What clues in the text helps the reader understand what a coup stick might be used for?	The remainder of the sentence on page 480 ("They uncovered their war shields and took out their coup sticks and lances.") as well as the events of those paragraphs (a war party was on its way to battle the Crow) helps the reader understand that this is a tool of war. On page 482, the text lets the reader know that Slow uses the coup stick to strike the enemy's arm, spoiling his aim. The illustration above this shows this moment in the story, giving further understanding.
On page 482, the word 'spoiling' is used in a way that is different from a common meaning, referring to food or drink that has gone 'bad'. How is the word used in this context?	Slow struck the warrior's arm as he was getting ready to release an arrow ('drew an arrow to his bowstring') t hereby 'spoiling his aim', meaning that the arrow was not going to hit its intended target. Slow cried out in 'triumph' when he did this so we know it was something good.
Reread page 483. Why does Slow's father paint his son with black paint?	Black paint is a sign of victory. His father claims that it was Slow's bravery and determination that won the battle for them.

What name does Slow's father give his son? Why is the name important to him and why does he give him that name? (Page 483)

He gives him the name, Tatan 'ka lyota 'ke, the name he himself was given by the great bull buffalo that walked through his camp when he was younger. The name is important to his father because it was a powerful name and it demonstrated that he listened to animals. (Page 477). He gives the name to his son because his son is brave and he felt his son's determination won the battle" for the Lakota. This man and name, Sitting Bull, was one of the greatest of all the Lakota warriors. (Page 484).

Vocabulary

	<b>KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>WORDS WORTH KNOWING</b> General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction
<b>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION</b> not enough contextual clues provided in the text	Page 471 - custom Page 472 - travois Page 478 - determination Page 480 - coup stick Page 482 - triumph	Page 475 - respect
<b>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING</b> sufficient context clues are provided in the text	Page 471 - extended Page 474 - raided Page 475 - reputation Page 476 - inherited	

## Culminating Tasks

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

1. *Slow is described as determined, brave, and courageous at various times of his life. Using examples from the text, how would you describe Slow at seven? At ten? At fourteen?*

Answer:

- By his seventh year, he gained a reputation as one of the strongest boys.
- By his seventh year, none of the small children were more at ease on the back of a pony than Slow.
- As Slow wrestled with friends, as he hunted with his bows and arrows, as he raced his gray pony, he always tried to do his best so that one day he would become a good warrior.
- At the age of ten, he killed his first buffalo – a calf.
- At fourteen, he carefully prepared on his own to join the warriors in a raid. He rode alone until he got to his father’s war party, then went into the middle of the warriors and before anyone could speak, he stated, “We are going”.
- Before his father could give word, Slow glanced at him and leaped forward towards the enemy. He was so fast, his father’s war party could not catch up. Before the first enemy could shoot an arrow, Slow got to him and struck him with the coup stick, ruining his aim.

2. *Customs and traditions are an important part of being a member of the Lakota tribe. Find examples discussed in the text that demonstrate this.*

Answer:

- Childhood names (coming from the way a child acted) had been a part of Returns Again’s (Slow’s father) childhood as well as his father before him.

- A child's name could not be changed until the child earned a new one by either having a powerful dream or by doing a brave or special deed.
- His mother told him that a true Lakota shares everything with his people and proceeded to remind him of the things his father did to show the truth of that statement. He would share what he brought home with the poorest people in the village.
- Slow was proud to have a father with the names Returns Again and Tatan 'ka lyota 'ke and he promised himself that he too would have such a name someday.
- It is custom for warriors to put on their best clothing and to mark their faces with paint before battle.
- It is also customary for a victorious warrior to be painted with black paint.

### Additional Activities

*Looking at the illustrations throughout the text, explain how each one shows what is happening in the text at that point in the story.*

Answer:

- Page 471: Returns Again and his family are shown with the new baby boy who will be named "Slow".
- Page 473: Slow's uncle Four Horns tells Slow how the horses came to the Lakota. The Creator, Wakan-Tanka, loved the Lakota people and sent them a new animal that could help them carry their travois and carry the hunters.
- Page 474-475: Returns Again (Slow's father) is shown driving away the enemy. He is the only one shown because all of the other Lakota were ready to retreat and Returns Again was the only one to return and drive them away.
- Page 476-477: Slow's father and friends were hunting buffalo prior to him getting the four names from the big bull buffalo. This picture can also be used in discussion about Slow killing his first buffalo as it seems to foreshadow the event.
- Page 479: Slow prepares to go with the war party and tells his pony (as he holds his arrows) they are ready to help protect

the people.

- Page 481: The war party is making plans. Slow approaches them in their midst to tell them he is going.
- Page 482-483: Slow struck an enemy's arm with the coup stick, ruining his aim as he was getting ready to fire upon the Lakota.
- Page 484: Sitting Bull becomes one of the greatest Lakota warriors