

Unit 4/Week 3

Title: The Last Dragon

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.4.1, RL.4.3, RL.4.4; W.4.1, W.4.2, W.4.4, W.4.9; SL.4.1, SL.4.2;
L.4.1, L.4.2, L.4.4, L.4.5

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

Good things can happen when a community works together.

Things do not always turn out as expected.

Synopsis

A young boy, Peter, is hesitant to spend the summer with his great aunt in Chinatown. Peter finds an aging parade dragon in a store and, in restoring it, learns to connect with the dragon and the Chinese community.

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 Under Consideration	Text Dependent Questions	Answers
Reread pg. 455 and 460	On page 455, the dragon is described as blind and speechless. What details from the text support this description?	The dragon is speechless because “his jaws had been wired tightly shut” (pg. 455). The dragon is blind because he has “no eyes at all” (pg. 460).
Reread pg. 456	What do Peter’s mother’s words tell you about her opinion of family?	The mother thinks family is important. She states, “She’s my oldest, wisest aunt. You must get to know her.”
Reread pg. 456	At the beginning, Peter has a negative attitude. What evidence from the story supports this statement?	*Peter did not agree. “He didn’t want to spend his summer in a small apartment above a noodle factory.” *“He missed his parents. He missed his friends. Everything in Chinatown seemed old and alien and strange.”
Reread pg. 459, 460, 463 doubtful, grumbled,	What phrases from the story tell you that Great Aunt was doubtful about the dragon?	* “A very sad dragon if you ask me.” (pg. 459) * “She grumbled about how the dragons of her childhood were royal in appearance and received the homage of every living thing. This was no such creature.” (pg. 459)

<p>homage</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * “Full of holes. Tail in bad shape.” (pg. 460) * “A very sorry dragon, if you ask me.” (pg. 460) * “This sorry creature has robbed us of our afternoon.” (pg. 463) <p>These phrases show the reader that she does not believe this dragon is as good as the dragons from her past and memory.</p>
<p>pg. 459, 463, 465, 478</p>	<p>Throughout the story, the characters state that “there’s something about” this dragon. Explain what the characters mean by this using the text to support your answer.</p>	<p>The characters mean that even though the dragon is tattered and old there is still something special about the dragon that makes people want to improve it. For example, even with bug skeletons and dust on the dragon, Peter still strokes the dragon’s whiskers (pg. 459). Mr. Pang also recognizes how special the dragon is when he rubs the dragon’s body and feels the warm silk. He then decides to help improve the dragon for free (pg. 463). Miss Rose Chiao agrees that there is something about the dragon and also agrees to help without pay (pg. 465). At the end of the story, after the celebration of the dragon, everyone agrees that “there’s something about that dragon” (pg. 478).</p>
<p>pg. 459-476</p>	<p>What clues tell you that Peter’s visit with Great Aunt is helping him learn about Chinese life?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * She reinforces respectful behavior by reminding him of his manners. (pgs. 459, 460, 476) * She sends him on dragon-related errands throughout the Chinatown community. (pgs. 459-471) * She describes the role of dragons in Chinese culture. (pgs. 459-460, 465, 467-468)
<p>pg. 459, 460, 468 scolded, grumbled</p>	<p>Great Aunt’s actions in the story show she is a kind person. What words does she say that show otherwise?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Great Aunt scolded Peter. And she grumbled about the dragon (pg. 459). * She “complained” and said “hump” (pg. 460). * She “grumbled” and “sighed” (pg. 468).
<p>pg. 467</p>	<p>How does the author indicate that Dr. Fong takes Peter’s request seriously?</p>	<p>The author says that Dr. Fong reacts “thoughtfully” to Peter’s question. Dr. Fong also gives useful information about dragon eyes.</p>

<p>pgs. 475- 476 homage</p>	<p>Which statements at the end of the story show you that the celebration is in homage, or respect, to the dragon?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * “Everyone stopped eating and turned to the door. There stood the Last Dragon, filling the moongate of the Golden Palace.” (pg. 475) * “Everyone stared at the dragon.” (pg. 476) * “Everyone cheered” as the dragon danced. (pg. 476) * “Peter stood up and bowed at the dragon. Everyone clapped, Peter loudest of all.” (pg. 476) * “Indeed, like the dragons of old, he was royal in appearance and received the homage he so richly deserved.” (pg. 476)
<p>pgs. 460, 467, 472, 475</p>	<p>Based on the story, explain the features of the dragon’s eyes. What information tells you that the dragon’s eyes are important?</p>	<p>In the beginning, the dragon had “no eyes” (pg. 460). The dragon’s eyes are “milky white balls” (pg. 472). The priest “puts a dot in each of the dragon’s eyes” (pg. 475). Dr. Fong specifically states the importance of the eyes. “He said, ‘Dragon eyes are very special. Any old eyes will not do. They must be blessed by a priest, or the dragon will never see” (pg. 467).</p>
<p>pgs. 456, 459- 471</p>	<p>On page 456, Peter’s mother describes Great Aunt as her “oldest, wisest aunt.” Is Peter’s Great Aunt wise? What text supports your answer?</p>	<p>Great Aunt is wise, because she helps Peter learn about Chinese culture. She lets him choose the dragon project and helps him complete it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * She reinforces respectful behavior by reminding him of his manners. (pgs. 459, 460, 476) * She sends him on dragon-related errands throughout the Chinatown community. (pgs. 459-471) * She describes the role of dragons in Chinese culture. (pgs. 459-460, 465, 467-468)

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	scolded, pg. 459 homage, pg. 459 and 476 ancient, pg. 467 mere, pg. 468	suspiciously, pg. 462 concluded, pg. 467 vial, pg. 475
STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING sufficient context clues are provided in the text	admired, pg. 463	doubtful, pg. 459 grumbled, pg.459 and 468 rippled, pg. 476

Culminating Tasks

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
- *In “The Last Dragon”, several people work together as a community. What details from the story explain the author’s view of a community’s role? What does the author mean on page 472, when she refers to “Peter’s new friends”? How does this support the author’s position on community?*

Answer: The idea of a community is central to the author’s perspective. The author shows the importance of community through their assistance in the dragon’s improvement and the way they change Peter’s attitude about his culture. [Specific citations will vary.]

Additional Tasks

- *Peter feels different emotions throughout the story. Explain some of his emotions using the text. Which emotion do you think Peter feels most often and why?*

Answer: At the beginning, Peter is upset that he has to spend the summer with his Great Aunt (pg. 456). Peter’s feelings change when he sees the dragon because he is excited about the dragon (pg. 459). Peter was impatient when he checked with Mr. Pang each day (pg. 463). Peter was excited as the new dragon took shape. He even forgot about the eyes in his “excitement” (pg. 468). When Miss Chiao finished the scales, Peter “felt a little sad” (pg. 468). Although he was “astonished” with much of the dragon, “he gave a great sigh” because the dragon was still blind (pg. 471). In the end, Peter is excited to see the dragon completed. He cheers and bows to the dragon (pg. 476). Peter most often feels excited in the story. His emotions changed to excitement because of the dragon and his work on the dragon with other members of the Chinese community.

- *By the end of the story, the dragon is very different than in the beginning. First, describe the dragon at the beginning of the story. Next, write a sequence of the changes the dragon undergoes. Finally, describe the dragon at the end of the story. Use specific examples and evidence from text in your answer.*

Answer:

A) At the beginning:

- * “He was collecting dust, cobwebs, and bug skeletons. He was blind and speechless” (pg. 455).
- * The dragon raised “great clouds of dust” and rained “bug skeletons all over the floor” (pg. 459).
- * “He’s very old” (pg. 459).
- * “The Last Dragon had a faded face, a scraggly crest, and no eyes” (pg. 460).
- * “A ten man dragon ... full of holes. Tail in bad shape” (pg.460).
- * The dragon had “no teeth” (pg. 460).

B) The sequence of changes of the dragon:

1. Great Aunt fixes the dragon’s mouth, whiskers, and pearl (pg. 460).
2. Mrs. Li, the neighbor, made a new crest with fine horns (pg. 463).
3. Miss Rose Chiao, the kite maker, fixed the frame, covered it with silk, and shining scales (pg. 467).
4. The artist, Mr. Sung, paints the dragon’s head (pg. 468).
5. Mr. Pang tied the head and the tail to the body with cords (pg. 471).
6. The mahjong ladies and Great Aunt fluffed the crest, polished the pearl, and combed the whiskers again (pg. 471).
7. Dr. Fong brings 2 milky white balls for eyes (pg. 472).
8. The priest paints with black ink and blesses the dragon’s eyes (pg. 475).

C) At the end:

- * The dragon's new crest had "fine horns" (pg. 463).
- * "Mr. Pang examined the dragon's teeth, 'Very nice,' he said" (pg. 471).
- * The dragon had "shiny scales" (pg. 471).
- * "The holes had disappeared beneath patches of silk" (pg. 471).
- * "'No holes,' said Peter with astonishment" (pg. 471).
- * The dragon had a "polished pearl" (pg. 471).
- * The dragon's eyes were "two milky white balls" (pg. 472).
- * The dragon's eyes were painted and blessed by the priest (pg. 475).
- * The dragon can "toss" his head, "snap" his jaws. "His face glowed with health. His body rippled from proud head to glittering tail" (pg. 476).
- * The dragon's heart is a beating drum (pg. 476).

Note to Teacher

- The sample answers include direct quotations from the text. The Common Core standard for evidence (RL.1) does not require students to quote directly from the text in order to explain its meaning or draw inferences from it until grade 5. However, you could ask for quotes for some answers in order to give students practice with this skill. At the least, students need to be able to refer to details and examples from the text in order to meet the evidence standard for grade 4.
- Because of its numerous examples, "The Last Dragon" lends itself to a study of homonyms (words that sound alike, but have different meanings). Some examples include: wired (pg. 455), spend (pg. 456), alien (pg. 456), crest (pg. 460), scales (pg. 467), characters (pg. 468), and raked (pg. 476).