

Unit 5/Week 3

Title: The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.4; W.5.2, W.5.4, W.5.9; SL.5.1, SL.5.2, 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 Understanding:

Perseverance, ingenuity, and the encouragement of family will carry you through bitter trials in order to reach a brighter tomorrow.

Synopsis

The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung is historical fiction written from the perspective of Wong Ming-Chung, a young Chinese boy who traveled to America to join his uncle during the California gold rush. His diary entries describe the day-to-day trials and tribulations they face as Chinese immigrants attempting to “strike it rich” in a foreign land. Not only are they dreaming of finding a better life for themselves but also for their family members in China. Wong Ming-Chung’s hopeful and enduring spirit helps his uncle persevere during discouraging times. Their cleverness and ingenuity helped them to achieve their dreams and remain safe in the process.

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

<u>Text Dependent Questions</u>	<u>Answers</u>
<p>Emigrated means leaving one’s country to settle in another country. Reread the preface on page 430 and explain in your own words why Wong Ming-Chung emigrated from China to America. Define the idiom “strike it rich” in your answer.</p>	<p>Wong Ming-Chung’s family sent him to strike it rich by mining for gold. “Strike it rich” means to become rich or find your fortune. Wong Ming-Chung worked with a company of Chinese immigrants outside of San Francisco.</p>
<p>Why must the Fox come up with clever ways to disguise or hide the gold in his company? (Pg. 430)</p>	<p>The Fox had to come up with clever ways to hide the gold because “American bullies” constantly attempted to take immigrants off their gold claims. The Fox hid the gold safe from the mobs of raiders even in the pot.</p>
<p>Who wrote the journal entries, and from what point of view is the story told? (Pg. 430)</p>	<p>This story is written in first person point of view from a young boy, Wong Ming-Chung.</p>
<p>A claim is a section of land that has been taken as one’s own. In the first journal entry on page 430, Wong Ming-Chung described camping on an abandoned claim with rotting rockers, a device used to separate gold from sand and dirt. Using details from the text, explain in your own words why Wong Ming-Chung wrote that the claim was “like the end of the world.”</p>	<p>When the company arrived at the abandoned claim, they found one in sight. The rotting rockers and rusted metal were an indication that humans had ever been there. The claim was like the end of the world, barren and devoid of life.</p>

<p>Reread page 431. How does Uncle feel about this journey so far? Use details from the text to support your answer.</p>	<p>Uncle feels frustrated and discouraged. "Uncle sat like a lump beside me." This was an emotionless. Uncle tells Wong Ming-Chung that they would never get rich by piling up dirt like they were in prison working really hard.</p>
<p>Prospect means search for gold. Why was Wong Ming-Chung worried about his uncle leaving the company to prospect on his own? (Pg. 432)</p>	<p>The company had just been chased off by a mob. Ming-Chung was concerned that Uncle might not last a week.</p>
<p>Reread Wong Ming-Chung's journal entry on the top of page 434. Even after Uncle said many hurtful things to Wong Ming-Chung and refused to allow him to go along with him, Wong Ming-Chung was still determined to follow. Explain what Wong Ming-Chung meant when he wrote, "Even if he doesn't love me, he is still family."</p>	<p>When Wong says, "Even if he doesn't love me, he is still family," it means that he will continue to love and follow his uncle because his uncle is behaving as if he doesn't love him. Wong is showing his loyalty and devotion to family.</p>
<p>Why was Wong Ming-Chung surprised at his uncle's reaction when he found him sitting by the river? Use details from the text to explain Uncle's reason for hurting Wong Ming-Chung with his harsh words. (Pg. 434)</p>	<p>Wong Ming-Chung was surprised at his uncle's reaction because he expected him to say more hurtful things. Instead, Uncle hugged him and gave him a big hug. He realized he hadn't meant any of the hurtful things he said. He thought Wong-Ming Chung would be hurt, but Uncle said that the hurtful words were the hardest part. Both Uncle and Wong Ming-Chung were relieved to be together.</p>
<p>After waking from a terrible nightmare, Wong Ming-Chung discovered "little dots of lights" on the floor of the shack. What did he mean when he wrote, "My curiosity got the better of my fear?" What did Wong discover because of his curiosity? (Pg. 436)</p>	<p>Wong Ming-Chung was at first fearful because of his nightmare, but his curiosity overshadowed his fear. He discovered gold on the "glittering floor." He discovered gold on the floor of the shack.</p>
<p>Reread page 437. Describe how Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle retrieved the gold from the dirt.</p>	<p>Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle built a rock wall around the floor of the walls of the shack. They took a sack and poured water into the rocker. Then they poured water into the holes. The water ran through the holes and the gold was removed. They removed the gold and kept it safe until they could get to town.</p>
<p>As Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle traveled from one abandoned claim to another gathering gold dust, they had to go to town and file a claim on each one. Each time they went to town, they were laughed at and referred to as the "crazy Chinese." How did they react to this ridicule? Why? (Pg. 439)</p>	<p>When Wong Ming-Chung and his uncle were laughed at in ridicule, they remained quiet. They maintained their focus because they did not want to draw any attention. They continued to cleverly accumulate their gold to reach their dream.</p>

<p>How did Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle use their ingenuity to transport their gold back to Sacramento to the American bank? (Pg. 440)</p>	<p>Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle muddled the gold. Wong Ming-Chung kept the gold. Wong Ming-Chung sat on the gold. Wong Ming-Chung traveled to Sacramento in a wagon. No one else was allowed to see the dirty, raggedy Chinese immigrants would not touch the dirty old basket.</p>
<p>Reread page 441. Did Uncle and Wong Ming-Chung achieve their dream? How do you know?</p>	<p>Yes. They set out to find gold in order to support their family members. With hard work and determination they did. They were also able to send money back to their relatives.</p>

Vocabulary

	<p>KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING</p>	<p>WORDS WORTH KNOWING General teaching suggestions are provided</p>
<p>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION not enough contextual clues provided in the text</p>	<p>Page 430 - emigrate Page 430 - claim Page 430 - prospect Page 430, 437 - rocker</p>	<p>Page 430 - immigrant Page 438 - chamber pot Page 431 - eddy Page 440 - dells</p>

<p>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING sufficient context clues are provided in the text</p>	<p>Page 430, 439 - abandoned Page 437 - nugget Page 436 - curiosity Page 436 - theory</p>	<p>Page 431 - rationed Page 436 - explanation Page 437 - clung Page 441 - strike</p>
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Culminating Task

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
- *Think about how Wong Ming-Chong and his uncle persevered during the gold rush. Describe the challenges they had to overcome. Include examples of how their ingenuity and family loyalty helped them achieve their goal. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.*

Answer:

Describe the challenges they had to overcome: Both Wong and Uncle are immigrants from China in a country new to them trying to find gold. During their time with the Fox they were constantly run off their claims by mobs of “American Bullies”. Each time Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle went to town the Americans laughed at them and referred to them as the “crazy Chinese.” Uncle became discouraged by not finding gold and feels like he is in a prison. He says hurtful words to Wong and leaves him with the Fox.

Examples of their ingenuity that helped them achieve their goal: As Wong and Uncle go prospecting on their own they stay in abandoned claim shacks. Wong uses his ingenuity to uncover gold that was left behind in the dirt of the shacks from previous gold miners. They construct a rocker and begin to process the gold to sell. Wong and Uncle continue this method of finding gold in abandoned claims. Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle ignore the American harassment and cleverly continue to accumulate

their gold. They use their ingenuity to transport their fortune back to Sacramento by disguising their gold in a run-down basket and dressing in raggedy clothes.

Examples of how family loyalty helped them achieve their goal: Even after Uncle decided to leave Wong Ming-Chung to protect him, Wong Ming-Chung continued to be loyal to him no matter the unkind words that were spoken. Wong Ming-Chung said, Even if he doesn't love me, he is still family. Wong Ming-Chung's positive attitude and encouragement helps Uncle's luck change from bad to good and they began to work as a team. Together they achieve their dream of being successful in order to help family in their homeland. Uncle also learns from a young boy that wisdom does not always come with age.

Additional Tasks

- *Throughout the text the author uses figurative language. Skim and scan the text for examples of figurative language. Define the terms that you discover. (Note to teacher: Students may want to write their answer in paragraph form or create a chart.)*

Answer: Examples of figurative language in the text include: "Strike it rich" means to suddenly become rich or find your fortune. "It looks like a battlefield", which is a simile that compares the abandoned claims to a battlefield. "Uncle sat like a lump" is a simile describing Uncle's lack of motivation. "Having a nose for gold" means knowing where to locate gold, the signs to look for, as well as the smell of the metal. "Uncle said I was useless to him. He didn't want me hanging around his neck any more like a stone." This is a simile expressing that Uncle felt Wong was a heavy burden. Wong Ming-Chung remembers spending time with his mother while she cooked. "She used to like to hum, and the flames seemed to dance to her tune." This is an example of personification.

Figurative Language	Explanation
Strike it rich Page 430	To suddenly become rich or find your fortune
Looks like a battlefield Page430	The abandoned claim is being compared to a battlefield w but the remains of a battle from the past.

The bank juts out like a finger Page 431	The bank is being compared to a crooked finger because t narrow and curved.
Uncle sat like a lump Page 431	Uncle sat still and emotionless.
Hanging around his neck any more like a stone Page 433	Uncle is comparing Wong Ming-Chung to a heavy stone th down... a burden.
The flames seemed to dance to her tune Page 435	The flames in the fireplace seemed to dance or flicker to t his mother was humming.
Little dots of light on the dirt floor Page 435	The small flecks of gold were shining in the dirt and looked light.
Luck as big as a mountain Page 441	Wong Ming-Chung said that Uncle’s good luck was going t mountain. Uncle was going to have a lot of good luck.

Note to Teacher

- Depending on time constraints, this story could lend itself to research projects on topics such as the California Gold Rush or immigration.

Name _____ Date _____

“The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung”

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7. Reread Wong Ming-Chung's journal entry on the top of page 434. Even after Uncle said many hurtful things to Wong Ming-Chung and refused to allow him to go along with him, Wong Ming-Chung was still determined to follow. Explain what Wong Ming-Chung meant when he wrote, "Even if he doesn't love me, he is still family."

8. Why was Wong Ming-Chung surprised at his uncle's reaction when he found him sitting by the river? Use details from the text to explain Uncle's reason for hurting Wong Ming-Chung with his harsh words. (Pg. 434)

9. After waking from a terrible nightmare, Wong Ming-Chung discovered "little dots of lights" on the floor of the shack. What did he mean when he wrote, "My curiosity got the better of my fear?" What did Wong discover because of his curiosity? (Pg. 436)

10. Reread page 437. Describe how Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle retrieved the gold from the dirt.

11. As Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle traveled from one abandoned claim to another gathering gold dust, they had to go to town and file a claim on each one. Each time they went to town, they were laughed at and referred to as the “crazy Chinese.” How did they react to this ridicule? Why? (Pg. 439)

12. How did Wong Ming-Chung and Uncle use their ingenuity to transport their gold back to Sacramento to the American bank? (Pg. 440)

13. Reread page 441. Did Uncle and Wong Ming-Chung achieve their dream? How do you know?