

## Unit 3/Week 4

Title: Love As Strong As Ginger

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

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

### 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

Our parents and grandparents often want us to have better lives than the ones they had.

#### Synopsis

In this story, a young girl shares what it is like to spend time with her grandmother at her home and at her job at the crab chong where she cracks crabs. In spending time with her grandmother, the young girl is able to experience what her grandmother's life is like. She understands that her grandmother's life is hard and that her grandmother wants a better life for her.

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
From whose point of view is the selection written?	This story is written in first person point of view from the young girl, Katie.
Reread page 230. Why does the young girl, Katie, spend her Saturdays with her grandmother?	Katie spends Saturdays with her grandmother because her parents have to work.
Reread the description of grandmother’s hands and gloves on page 231. Why does the author write this?	The author carefully describes grandmother’s hands and gloves to show the reader that she is old and fragile. The author uses the gloves to show how different they are (soft vs. rough) so the reader can infer that grandmother’s work must be hard.
On page 232, Katie asks, “Why do you crack crabs?” What would she have rather done?	Grandmother says she works in a crab chong. Katie is old and cannot speak English. She would have rather been a famous actress.
On page 232, Katie says, “I want to be like you.” What does she mean?	Katie means that she wants to be kind and helpful like her grandmother, not necessarily work in a crab chong.
On page 232, Katie’s grandmother wants Katie to dream big and understand that in America she can be whatever she wants to be. When Katie says she wants to go to the crab chong she calls it a “little dream.” What did her grandmother mean? What does Katie’s grandmother want for Katie?	Katie’s grandmother wants more for her, like to go to college and be educated so she does not have to do smelly work like the crab chong. Katie’s grandmother wants her to work in the crab chong is a little dream so she can be like her and parents and grandparents want more for her and grandchildren.

<p>On the bus on page 234, a lady asks Katie where her gloves are. Grandmother explains that no gloves fit Katie. The woman responds by saying, “may that always be so.” What does the lady mean?</p>	<p>The woman never wants Katie to have to work. She wants Katie to have a better life.</p>
<p>What words and phrases does the author use to describe the crab chong on pages 235-238?</p>	<p>The crab chong can be described in many ways: damp, wet, miserable, suffocating, etc.</p>
<p>What does Katie’s visit to the crab chong teach Katie about her grandmother’s job? Use text evidence to support your ideas. (Pgs. 235-238)</p>	<p>Katie learns that her grandmother’s job is very smelly, tiring, boring. It is also extremely tiring and requires a lot of physical and mental strength.</p>
<p>How does grandmother get through her long days at the crab chong? (Pg. 238)</p>	<p>Grandmother pretends she is a famous actress in a crab chong to cope with her job conditions.</p>
<p>How do the employees feel about their boss? What text evidence is provided to help you draw your conclusions? (Pg. 240)</p>	<p>The employees are somewhat afraid of the boss. The text includes the lady speaking up for grandmother and the language shown in the illustration.</p>
<p>What do the following statements on page 243 mean:                  *“I ate Gnin Gnin’s words.”                  *”Made with love as strong as ginger and dreams as thick as black bean paste.”                  *I filled myself with all the flavors of her hard work.”</p>	<p>*I ate Gnin Gnin’s words- I internalized her words, they became part of me, I memorized them.                  *Made with love...-Grandmother’s love for me and she had great dreams, aspirations for me.                  *I filled myself...-She ate the wonderful meal I made with the crab that symbolizes the hard work at the crab chong.</p>

Vocabulary

	KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING	WORDS WORTH KNOWING General teaching suggestions are provided
<p><b>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION</b> not enough contextual clues provided in the text</p>	<p>Page 229 - dialect</p>	<p>Page 232 - confetti Page 236- conveyor belt Page 235 - overlooking Page 239 - eagerly</p>
<p><b>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING</b> sufficient context clues are provided in the text</p>		<p>Page 235- billowed Page 234 – singsong Page 234 - sporting Page 236- mallet Page 239 - snatching</p>

Culminating Task

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write

*Describe what Grandmother's life is like. Why does she want a different kind of life for Katie than the one she has? Use evidence from the text to support your ideas.*

Answer: Grandmother's life is hard. Her work at the crab chong is difficult because, as it says on pages 236-238, she has to stand the whole time, breaking crab takes strength, and she has to work really fast. Grandmother is old and already pretty tired from her age, then she has to go do hard work everyday. On top of that, she does not love her work, which makes it tough work too. Grandmother wants Katie to have a better life than hers. This idea is supported on page 232 when Katie says she wants to go to her grandmother's job at the crab chong, her grandmother replies by saying "little dream." Grandmother also tells Katie that she can be whatever she dreams. Grandmother wants Katie to have a different life because she knows she can. She knows that America has much to offer and she wants Katie to reach for all her dreams so she doesn't have to live a hard life like she has.

### Additional Tasks

- *There are several examples of symbolism found throughout the text. Some examples include the gloves and apron, the crab chong, and the food Grandmother cooks for Katie. Using details from the text, explain what each of these symbols mean.*

Answer: The gloves and aprons used in the crab chong are referred to several times. They symbolize the hard work done in the factory as well as the lack of glamour associated with the job. The crab chong itself symbolizes a lost dream. The food grandmother cooks for Katie symbolizes their culture and grandmother's love for Katie.

- *Why do you think the author titled this story "Love as Strong as Ginger"?*

Answer: Ginger is a very strong flavor. The author wanted the reader to get a "taste" or a clear image of just how much Grandmother loved Katie and how much Katie loved her grandmother.

- *On page 236, grandmother says, "Every minute is worth another penny." What does she mean by this?*

Answer: People at the factory are paid by how much crab they extract. So, if they are distracted, they lose money.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**“Love as Strong as Ginger”**

1. From whose point of view is the selection written?
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3. Reread the description of grandmother’s hands and gloves on page 231. Why does the author write this?
4. On page 232, Katie asks, “Why do you crack crabs?” What would she have rather done?
5. On page 232, Katie says, “I want to be like you.” What does she mean?



12. What do the following statements on page 243 mean: "I ate Gnin Gnin's words." "Made with love as strong as ginger and dreams as thick as black bean paste." "I filled myself with all the flavors of her hard work."