

ORBIT

Title of Close Reading Text: Chai Li's Panda

Learning Intention:

I am learning about the choices authors make when composing texts so that I can explain the effect on meaning of key features of a text.

Success Criteria:

- I can understand the meaning of a text
- I can identify and describe key features of a narrative
- I can explain the impact of different structural and stylistic features in a narrative

Reading	Text-Dependent Questions	Outcome:
<p>1st Reading What it says.</p> <p>Key ideas and details</p>	<p>Read the story Chai Li's Panda as a class and discuss the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe Chai Li's life in summer (suggested answer: She is happy, she plays outdoors and spends time with her friend Chi Chi, the panda) • Describe Chai Li's life in winter (suggested answer: sometimes she spends many days indoors, it is lonely and cold) • Describe Sutai, the Snow Spirit (suggested answer: the snow spirit can get very angry and be very aggressive) • Does this story have a moral or message for readers? (suggested answer: The message to people is that they need to care for the environment, and the habitats of endangered animals). 	<p>EN3-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E5LY04</p>

<p>2nd Reading How it says it.</p> <p>Craft and Structure</p>	<p>When reading the text a second time, explain to students that winter and the harsh snowy weather experience by Chai Li and her family during winter-time is presented as Sutai, the Snow Spirit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think that the terrible snow storms on the mountain are shown in the story through the character of Sutai the Snow Spirit? (suggested answer: the way that Sutai’s anger is shown in the story creates a strong emotional response. Chai Li is fearful and the reader feels empathy, they are drawn into the story) • How would the story be different if the author had left out Sutai, and simply described challenging winter weather conditions? (Without Sutai the Snow Spirit, then the story would not deliver the same sense of fear, and the snow storms would seem to be simply bad weather events, not connected with the moral message regarding caring for endangered species) • How does the inclusion of Sutai’s character assist the author to deliver their message to readers? (suggested answer: when Chai Li’s grandmother explains that the reason for Sutai’s anger, the reader can see that this story is concerned about pandas and how vulnerable they are to habitat loss) 	<p>EN3-RECOM-01</p> <p>AC9E5LY01</p>
<p>3rd Reading What it means.</p> <p>Language features, sentence structures, visual components, text cohesion, repetition.</p>	<p>In the extract below, circle or underline the words that describe sounds: ‘Sometimes she would hear his wild voice, calling, screeching, wailing on the wind, and sometimes when he stirred from sleep, his distant roaring, rumbling movements would reach her listening ears. And she would feel afraid.’ (p. 26)</p> <p>Identify the emotion related to those sound words. (suggested answers: screeching, wailing, roaring, rumbling. These sounds words have frightening connotations – a monster or ghost might make these sounds).</p>	<p>AC9E5LY04</p> <p>EN3-VOCAB-01</p>

	<p>In the extract below, highlight or underline in one colour, Chi Li's parent's behaviour during the snow storm. Then in a second colour highlight or underline the impact of the snow storm.</p> <p>Chai-Li's tiny house shook and trembled, and her parents stood, silent, with wide and frightened eyes, as his giant footsteps echoed and boomed around the distant peak, and walls of snow came thundering down the mountain side, to bury the bare treetops with masses and masses and masses of white. 'Sutai is very angry today,' Chai-Li's father said... p. 26-27</p> <p>What is the difference between the way that the family is behaving indoors during the storm, compared with Sutai's behaviour outside? (suggested answer: Indoors the family is 'silent' and afraid, unmoving. Outside Sutai is loud and is moving rapidly and loudly across the mountains.</p> <p>In the extract above from pp. 26-27, locate an example of repetition. When you read this, what image appears in your mind? How would it be different if the word 'masses' was only used once?</p> <p>(suggested answer: 'bury the bare treetops with masses and masses and masses of white.' The repetition of masses helps convey the huge amount of snow covering trees, it adds tension and danger and demonstrates that the family are right to be frightened. Sutai is dangerous. If masses was only used once, then readers might only imagine a much smaller, less dangerous amount of snowfall during the storm.)</p> <p>When Chai Li sees Chi Chi, her dialogue uses repetition of 'He is safe! He is safe!' What does this repetition in Chai Li's dialogue show us about Chai Li in this moment?</p> <p>(suggested answer: The repetition highlights Chai Li's excitement and relief. She had been frightened that she would never see Chi Chi again. The use of exclamation marks here also adds emphasis.)</p>	
<p>General follow-up questions for each of the readings:</p>	<p>How do you know this? What evidence do you have to support that? Why do you think this? What examples can you find in the text?</p>	

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