

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 5, Lesson 19

Teacher Packet

Review of Independent Activity from Lesson 18

Everything changed for Mr. and Mrs. Chu once they showed up to the Wang's for dinner and saw the fabulous feast that lay before them. Mrs. Chu was clever enough to know that this was not the normal feast of her friends, Widow Wang and Ming-li. Mrs. Chu knew she had to watch closely to see if she could figure out how Widow Wang made this unbelievable meal, and she did! Mrs. Chu discovered Widow Wang's secret of the golden beetle and made a plan to borrow it, if only for a few days, and then return it later. After a bit of convincing, Mr. Chu agreed and Mrs. Chu was off to take the golden beetle from Widow Wang's kitchen cupboard.

Mr. and Mrs. Chu made the decision to 'borrow' the golden beetle without telling Widow Wang. They were hungry too and thought they would only need it for a few days to fatten up, then, they would return it. No harm done!

Form an opinion about this situation, either agreeing or disagreeing with Mr. and Mrs. Chu's decision to take the beetle from the Widow Wang. Based on your opinion, include how their decision might impact their relationship with one another and with the Wangs.

Support your opinion with reasons and evidence pulled from your notes, including your character chart and answers from the questions you answered during today's lesson.

Student Response:

Have you ever wanted something that someone else has? Does one of your friends have a toy or really neat marker that you would love to have? Would you do anything to have it? Is it okay to borrow something from a friend if it makes your life better? Today in our fable we read about a couple who wanted something their friend had and were willing to borrow it to make their life better. This couple, Mr. and Mrs. Chu, borrowed the Widow Wang's golden beetle so they would be able to have the good, delicious food the Wangs had been enjoying. In my opinion, the borrowing of the golden beetle was a good thing to do.

First, Mr. and Mrs. Chu were hungry just like the Wangs before the monk brought Widow Wang the magical, golden beetle. Their stomachs were empty and since they were poor they probably did not have very much money to buy food. Mr. and Mrs. Chu enjoyed their meal with the Wangs and wanted to continue to eat in that manner. Mr. Chu even said it was the best meal he had ever eaten so I imagine Mrs. Chu wanted to keep her husband happy by making sure he wasn't hungry.

Second, if the Wangs were really the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Chu they would want them to have a special, magical item that would help them. When people are your friends, you are willing to let them use or borrow your items so it will make them happy. Even Mr. Chu said since they were friends it was just borrowing the golden beetle. When Mrs. Chu borrowed the golden beetle, she knew the Wangs would want them to be happy since the Wangs did invite them to eat a meal full of delicacies.

Finally, the borrowing of the golden beetle was a good thing to do since Mr. and Mrs. Chu weren't going to keep it. They were only using it for a few days. Mr. and Mrs. Chu planned to return the golden beetle after they were fattened up. Sometimes, friends let each other use or keep items for a few days because they know it will be returned.

Friends are hard to keep and sometimes you have to make sacrifices to keep the relationship. These sacrifices include giving items you care about or that are special to you. It isn't always easy to make these sacrifices but when your friends are in need you will do anything to help them. Mr. and Mrs. Chu were in need and even though they didn't know it, the Wangs helped them out of a difficult situation. This is why borrowing the golden beetle was a good thing to do.

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Widow Wang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a widow ● Ming-li's mother ● used money on medicine for Ming-li when he was sick ● poor and hungry ● has a dog and cat ● visited by old monk ● monk gives her gift from the gods: magical golden beetle ● surprised at the gift ● told how to use the magical golden beetle when she wants food ● used the magical golden beetle to cook "something" after the monk left her house ● discovered that the golden beetle worked. ● convinced Ming-li that the golden beetle was real and magical. ● was happy to feed her son, the dog, and the cat. ● began using the beetle to make lots of fancy food. ● was so proud of their new luck that she asked others to dinner. ● <i>beetle is gone - hungry again!</i>

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Ming-Li	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● son of Widow Wang ● feels bad for his mom ● poor and hungry ● eldest, or oldest, son of Widow Wang ● was very sick during the winter after trying to fix the roof of family's house ● doesn't have a job ● believes the gods will provide ● looks for a job every day ● came home to tell his mother he didn't get a job - again! ● thought his mother was stark mad when she told him about the magic beetle. ● felt totally surprised when it worked! Yummy dumplings! ● listened to his mother's tale of how the magic beetle worked. ● ate a lot, with the dog and the cat, and eventually got lazy - no need to work anymore. ● was so proud of their new luck that he asked others to dinner. ● <i>beetle is gone - hungry again!</i>

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Tabby the cat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● hungry● cold● skinny● full and fat
Blackfoot the dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● hungry● almost dead● cold● full and fat

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Mrs. Chu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● from another village ● visited the Wang's for a nice dinner ● surprised at the nice meal ● saw the "charm" (golden beetle) and how Widow Wang used it to cook dinner ● has a plan to "borrow" the golden beetle to cook with it too ● not worried about removing the golden beetle from the house ● willing to lie to take the golden beetle from the Wang's house ● convinces Mr. Chu that they should go forward with the plan to borrow the beetle ● no one, but Tabby the cat, saw her take the golden beetle ● didn't have the beetle long!
Mr. Chu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● from another village ● visited the Wang's for a nice dinner ● surprised at the nice meal - best meal he had ever eaten! ● believes they will always be poor – no luck ● unsure if they should "borrow" the golden beetle ● tries to find holes in Mrs. Chu's plan ● reminds Mrs. Chu they are only "borrowing" the golden beetle, not "stealing" it. ● didn't have the beetle long!

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Tabby the cat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● hungry ● cold ● skinny ● full and fat ● <i>hungry and skinny again</i> ● <i>hates not having decent food to eat</i> ● <i>knows about the golden beetle</i> ● <i>saw Mrs. Chu steal the golden beetle</i> ● <i>develops a plan to get the golden beetle back</i> ● <i>convinces Blackfoot to help with the plan to get the golden beetle back</i> ● <i>rides Blackfoot's back across the river</i> ● <i>protected from strange animals by Blackfoot</i> ● <i>retrieves the golden beetle from the Chu's house</i> ● <i>slips inside the house once they got back with the beetle</i>

CHARACTER	WHAT WE KNOW
Blackfoot the dog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● hungry ● almost dead ● cold ● full and fat ● <i>hungry and skinny again</i> ● <i>hates not having decent food to eat</i> ● <i>surprised Tabby knew about the golden beetle</i> ● <i>willing to help Tabby get the golden beetle back</i> ● <i>wishes he was a cat so he could do things like Tabby</i> ● <i>carries Tabby across the river</i> ● <i>protects Tabby from strange animals</i> ● <i>can't get into the house with the door locked and has to wait as Tabby goes in</i>

Independent Practice

Imagine that you are Blackfoot, the Wang's faithful dog.

You and Tabby, the Wang's cat, have been long-time pals, through thick and thin. Most recently, you've stuck together through times of plenty when the golden beetle made tons of amazing food. Now, hunger has entered your lives again and Tabby says she knows how to solve this problem. The two of you are going to retrieve the golden beetle from the thief that took it: Mrs. Chu. Your travels to the Chu house that night were adventurous and it felt great to help your friend carry out her rescue plan. Now you are back home and, seeing through the window that Widow Wang and Ming-li aren't sleeping well due to hunger, Tabby tells you she is going inside to make them happy.

1. Tell about your midnight adventure with Tabby, to retrieve the golden beetle from the Chu's house.
2. Continue your story, starting at the moment that Tabby slipped back into the house to make the Wang's happy.

Make sure to include:

- ☐ the thoughts, feelings, and actions that you would experience from Blackfoot's point of view.
- ☐ good, descriptive words to help your reader *see* the story you are telling.
- ☐ dialogue to make your story more interesting to read.

To support your writing, use evidence from your character chart as well as your answers to the questions asked in today's reading.

Keep up with your narrative writing and make sure you have it for lesson five! I can't wait to see what you come up with!