

ELA: Grade 5, Lesson 16, *Why the Dog Hates the Cat*

Lesson Focus: Study of characters introduced in this section of the fable.

Practice Focus: Students will create a character chart for *Why the Dog Hates the Cat* to demonstrate comprehension of the fable and character interactions.

Objective: Students will read *Why the Dog Hates the Cat* to identify characters in the fable and begin to investigate how they react to their common problem of poverty and hunger.

Academic Vocabulary: widow, eldest, scant, pang, monk

TN Standards: 5.RL.5.1, 5.RL.5.3, 5.RL.5.4, 5.W.RBPK.9

Teacher Materials:

- The Teacher Packet for ELA, Grade 5, Lesson 16
- Chart paper (or regular paper) for teacher graphic organizer
- Marker or highlighter

Student Materials:

- 2 pieces of paper, pencil, surface to write on
- marker or highlighter
- The Student Packet for ELA, Grade 5, Lesson 16 which can be found on www.tn.gov/edu

Teacher Do	Students Do
<p>Opening (1 min)</p> <p>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee's At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today's lesson is for all our 5th graders out there, though everyone is welcome to tune in. This lesson is the first lesson in this week's series.</p> <p>My name is ____ and I'm a ____ grade teacher in Tennessee schools. I'm so excited to be your teacher for this lesson! Welcome to my virtual classroom!</p> <p>If you didn't see any of our previous lessons, you can find them on www.tn.gov/education. You can still tune in to today's lesson if you haven't seen any of our others.</p> <p>Today we will be reading a Chinese fable that explains something that has puzzled people for centuries! Before we get started and to participate fully in our lesson today, you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 pieces of paper, pencil, surface to write on• marker or highlighter• The Student Packet for ELA, Grade 5, Lesson 16 which can be found on www.tn.gov/edu <p>I'll give you a few moments to get prepared for our time together! [Pause.]</p> <p>Ok, let's begin!</p>	<p>Students gather materials for the lesson and prepare to engage with the lesson's content.</p>

<p>Intro (2 min)</p> <p>[In preparation for filming, decide how you will show the content on the slide deck. You could choose to project the deck beside you, use screen capture software, or transfer the slide deck to chart paper or a white board].</p> <p>Today, we are starting a new series based on the story called <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i> by Norman Pitman. Our story is a Chinese fable. A fable is a short story, typically with animals as characters, and it teaches us a lesson. We call this lesson the <i>moral</i> or the story. Do you remember reading other fables in school? [Pause.] Great!</p> <p>What do you think about this title, <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i>? [Pause.] It's interesting, isn't it? What do you think this title is telling us? [Pause.] I guess so! That a dog hates a cat. Do you think it means just one dog hates one cat, or that all dogs hate all cats? [Pause.] Well, I don't know either.</p> <p>But, that word...<i>hate</i>! That's a pretty strong word...<i>hate</i>. It's stronger than saying you just don't like something. And this title tells us the dog <i>hates</i> the cat. Yikes! Something really horrible must have happened. I think we're going to have to read to find out!</p> <p>It's important for us to know that <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i> includes some challenging words, so today we will focus on several of them as we read. Feel free to jot them down as we go if you'd like to have them handy to include in your independent practice. There are a few that we'll encounter today that we're going to address up front. This is so we can jump in feet first!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first word is <i>widow</i>. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. • The next word is <i>eldest</i>. That's just another word for the oldest. We typically say someone is the eldest when we are referring to brothers and sisters. <p>Ready? Let's dig in!</p>	
<p>Teacher Model/Read-Aloud (15 min)</p> <p>"What we shall eat tomorrow, I haven't the slightest idea!" said Widow Wang to her eldest son, as he started out one morning in search of work.</p> <p>"Oh, the gods will provide. I'll find a few pennies somewhere," replied the boy, trying to speak cheerfully, although in his heart he also had no idea in which direction to turn.</p>	<p>Students will engage in a read-aloud of the first section of <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a few of the major characters in this fable. • Establish the problem: Widow Wang and Ming-li are poor and hungry.

- Remember the word widow? Our story includes a woman called Widow Wang, meaning her husband died and Wang is her last name - Widow Wang.
- In this same sentence, we have another character. Who is it? [Pause.] Right! Her *eldest* son, or her oldest son.
- What is Widow Wang's eldest son in search of? [Pause.] Yes! He is leaving one morning in search of work. That's interesting! I'm guessing he doesn't have a job right now. Let's keep reading to find out why he needs work.
- Widow Wang's son replies that they will get money somehow. Who does he say will provide for them? [Pause.] Right. He says the gods will provide. Remember, in ancient China, people worshipped many gods and goddesses. They believed the gods would reward them for good deeds. Since this is a Chinese fable, it makes sense that Widow Wang's son hoped that the gods would see their troubles and help.

The winter had been a hard one: extreme cold, deep snow, and violent winds. The Wang house had suffered greatly. The roof had fallen in, weighed down by heavy snow. Then a hurricane had blown a wall over, and Ming-li, the son, up all night and exposed to a bitter cold wind, had caught pneumonia. Long days of illness followed, with the spending of extra money for medicine.

- The author, Norman Pitman, uses some great words to describe the type of winter the Wang's had just lived through. What words did the author use? [Pause.] Yes! Words like *extreme cold, deep snow, and violent winds* help us realize that the winter was a horrible one. Not to mention that the heavy snow weighed down the roof and made it fall in! Ugh!
- So, the roof had fallen in and then...what happened to one of the walls? [Pause.] Oh my! A hurricane had blown it over. A caved-in roof and a blown-over wall! Can you see it? [Pause.] I can!
- We see that the eldest son has a name. Do you remember it? [Pause.] Good! Ming-li. Well, this horrible experience affected Ming-li in a bad way. What happened to him as a result of being exposed to the bitter cold wind as he tried to fix the roof and the wall? [Pause.] Oh, that's right. He caught pneumonia!
- We read: "*Long days of illness followed, with the spending of extra money for medicine.*" What do you think this means? [Pause.] Yep, Ming-li was sick with pneumonia for a long time after the horrible winter. It sounds like they had to spend all of their money on his

- Begin to shape why the characters interact the way they do.
- Set the stage for suspense for upcoming reading of the text.

medicine.

- Okay, so our story begins with the son, Ming-li, going out in search of work. But his mother, Widow Wang, says something to him right before he leaves. She says: *"What we shall eat tomorrow, I haven't the slightest idea!"* What do you think she means by this? [Pause.] I agree! I think that they are very poor after such a hard winter with Ming-li sick, and now they have very little food. When someone says they have the slightest idea, it means they really don't know. It sounds like Widow Wang just doesn't know where their next meal will come from.
- But, what is Ming-li trying to do about it? [Pause.] Good! We were right. Ming-li is going out in search of work so he and his mother can have what they need to survive. What is it that seems to be on Widow Wang's mind most of all? [Pause.] Yes, food!

All their scant savings had soon melted away, and at the shop where Ming-li had once worked his place was filled by another. When at last he arose from his sickbed he was too weak for hard labor and there seemed to be no work in the neighboring villages for him to do. Night after night he came home, trying not to be discouraged, but in his heart feeling the deep pangs of sorrow at the sight of his mother suffering for food and clothing.

- Here, the author continues to give us more information about the situation these two characters, Widow Wang and her son Ming-li, are in.
- We see that their "scant saving had melted away." What do you think the word *scant* means? [Pause.] Yep, it means very little. They didn't have a lot of money even before the horrible winter.
- We also read that Ming-li's job had been taken by someone else while he was out sick. Bummer!
- Let's reread this part: *"Night after night he came home, trying not to be discouraged, but in his heart feeling the deep pangs of sorrow at the sight of his mother suffering for food and clothing."* What does this tell us about the way Ming-li feels about the situation? [Pause.] Yes, I think he feels responsible too, that's why he is feeling so discouraged. He keeps coming home without a job.
- Let's read it one more time: *"Night after night he came home, trying not to be discouraged, but in his heart feeling the deep pangs of sorrow at the sight of his mother suffering for food and clothing."* This time, I want you to think about what this tells us about the way Ming-li feels about his mother? [Pause.] You got it!

Ming-li cares very much about his mother. The author says Ming-li's heart feels "deep pangs of sorrow" at the sight of her suffering. What do you think this means - deep *pangs* of sorrow? [Pause.] Good! A *pang* is a sharp pain, and here it is connected to Ming-li's emotions. He feels a sharp pain of sadness when he sees how his mother is having to live.

"Bless his good heart!" said the poor widow after he had gone. "No mother ever had a better boy. I hope he is right in saying the gods will provide. It has been getting so much worse these past few weeks that it seems now as if my stomach were as empty as the ocean. Why, even the rats have deserted our cottage, and there's nothing left for poor Tabby Cat, while old Blackfoot the Dog is nearly dead from starvation."

- As I read, I noticed that Widow Wang is talking out loud here. Who is she talking about? [Pause.] Yes. She's saying such nice things about her son, Ming-li. But, she definitely seems worried. She says: *"I hope he is right in saying the gods will provide. It has been getting so much worse these past few weeks that it seems now as if my stomach were as empty as the ocean."* Why do you think things are getting worse? [Pause.] I agree. They didn't have much to begin with, and now they have even less to live on!
- What words does the author use that help us understand how hungry Widow Wang is at this moment? [Pause.] Yes. *"...it seems now as if my stomach were as empty as the ocean."* I'm sure you remember learning about this type of figurative language in school. This is called a metaphor, when we compare two things for impact, knowing that it's not possible. Widow Wang's stomach is not an ocean, but it feels so empty that that's what she compares it to. So, this metaphor helps us to see just HOW hungry Widow Wang is? How hungry is that, you think? [Pause.] VERY!
- In this section, we're introduced to a couple of new characters. Do you remember what new characters were just added to our fable? [Pause.] Good memory! We added a cat named Tabby, and a dog named...what? [Pause.], yes...Blackfoot! I wonder why he was named Blackfoot. Do you think it's because he had one black foot? I bet so!
- What did we learn about Tabby and Blackfoot? [Pause.] Oh no! They are terribly hungry too! The text says that even the rats are gone so Tabby has nothing to eat, and Blackfoot is nearly *"dead from starvation!"* Wow!

- I'm noticing something at this point in the fable. I'm thinking about point of view, or what we sometimes call perspective. I notice pronouns in this fable like, he and she. I also notice that it's like I can see and hear everything...every character's thoughts, feelings, and actions. WHO do you think is telling this story? [Pause.] Right, a narrator is telling the story. Not Widow Wang or Ming-li. Do you know what this point of view is called? [Pause.] Good memory! It's called third-person point of view, or omniscient...meaning 'knowing everything'! As we can tell, we get to know everything with the narrator. Cool!

When the old woman referred to the sorrows of her pets, her remarks were answered by a pitiful mewing [or meowing] and woebegone barking from the corner where the two hungry creatures were curled up together trying to keep warm.

- I can see them now! Curled up in a corner together. Can't you?
- But, wait a minute! The cat and the dog are curled up together? Our title is *Why the Dog Hates the Cat*. They don't seem like they hate each other here. Hmmm? That's interesting! Let's keep reading!

Just then there was a loud knocking at the gate. When the Widow Wang called out, "Come in!" she was surprised to see an old baldheaded monk standing in the doorway. "Sorry, but we have nothing," she went on, feeling sure the visitor had come in search of food. "We have fed on scraps these two weeks—on scraps and scrapings—and now we are living on the memories of what we used to have. Our cat was so fat then she couldn't climb to the roof. Now look at her. You can hardly see her, she's so thin. No, I'm sorry we can't help you, friend, but you see how it is."

- So, a new, surprise character! Who was it? [Pause.] Yes, an old monk.
- What did she think the monk was at her house for? [Pause.] Right, she thought he was begging for food.
- How did Widow Wang describe her situation? [Pause.] She did! She told him that they "*have nothing*" to give him.
- Let's reread this sentence: "*We have fed on scraps these two weeks—on scraps and scrapings—and now we are living on the memories of what we used to have.*" Why do you think the author included this sentence? [Pause.] Yes! It emphasizes how they have had to live on the smallest amounts of food. I like how Widow Wang says

that they are *“now living on the memories of what we used to have.”* Think about it...*memories* of their food! They must be really, really hungry!

- Speaking of hungry, how did Widow Wang describe her cat to the old monk? [Pause.] Yes, that’s another way for her to clearly communicate that she has nothing to give him...even her once fat cat is so skinny that you can hardly see her.
- I wonder what will happen next. Will the old monk just leave? Let’s keep reading and find out!

“I didn’t come for food,” cried the monk, looking at her kindly, “but only to see what I could do to help you. The gods have listened long to the prayers of your devoted son. They have seen how faithfully he has served you ever since his illness, and now, when he is worn out and unable to work, they have decided to reward him. You likewise have been a good mother and shall receive the gift I am now bringing.”

- Whoa! That’s cool! Ming-li was right! Who did Ming-li say would provide for them? [Pause.] Yes, the gods. And the old monk tells Widow Wang that the gods have listened a long time to the prayers of her son, Ming-li.
- What does the old monk say the gods have seen? [Pause.] Right! He tells Widow Wang that the gods have seen Ming-li faithfully taking care of his mother since his sickness.
- And, what does the old monk say the gods have decided to do about it? [Pause.] Yep, like Ming-li and his mother had hoped, the gods are going to reward him with a gift.
- Who has the gift? [Pause.] Oh yeah! The old monk has it! I can’t wait to see what it is! Eeee - let’s keep reading!

“What do you mean?” faltered Mrs. Wang, hardly believing her ears. “Have you come here to laugh at our troubles?”

- Why do you think Widow Wang didn’t believe the old monk? [Pause.] Right! I think she’s probably in shock. How often do people get visitors that say that the gods want to reward them? No doubt, that probably never happens! And here is this monk, right in front of her, and she thinks he is joking.
- Let’s see what the old monk says!

“By no means. Here in my hand I hold a tiny golden beetle which you will find has a magic power greater than any you ever dreamed of. I will leave this precious thing with you.”

- A what? [Pause.] A golden beetle that has magic

powers! Can you see it? Tiny and glowing in the palm of the old monk's hand. So cool!

- What do you think the monk means when he says: "I will leave this *precious* thing with you." [Pause.] I agree. I think he wants Widow Wang to know that the golden beetle is something very, very special. That's why he used the word *precious*.
- What do you think will be Widow Wang's reaction? Hmm? Let's find out.

"Yes, it will sell for a good sum," murmured the widow, looking closely at the beetle, "and will give us rice for several days. Thanks, good monk, for your kindness."

- Hold on a minute! What did Widow Wang say the golden beetle could do for them? [Pause.] Oh no! She said it would sell for a *good sum*, or a good bit of money. What did she say they could buy with this money? [Pause.] Right! Rice that would feed them for a few days. Why do you think she would be willing to sell the beetle for rice? [Pause.] Yes, remember, Widow Wang and her son, Ming-li are very poor and hungry. Food is the most important thing on her mind right now. Much more important than a little trinket.
- So, do you think this is what the monk hoped Widow Wang's response to be? Hmmm?

"But you must by no means sell this golden beetle, for it has the power to fill your stomachs as long as you live."

- Nope! He didn't like her reaction at all. He tells her that, for no reason, should she sell the golden beetle.
- And, he slips in something very interesting. What was it? [Pause.] YES! It's the magic powers of the golden beetle, just like that! What can this tiny, precious, golden beetle do? [Pause.] Wow! It has the power to fill their stomach as long as they live. What? That's a long time!
- Do you think Widow Wang will still want to sell the golden beetle now? [Pause.] Let's read to find out!

The widow stared in open-mouthed wonder at the monk's surprising words.

- Too shocked to speak! I think I would be, too! Can you see her standing there, with her mouth wide-open in surprise?

"Yes, [said the monk] you must not doubt me, but listen carefully to what I tell you. Whenever you wish food, you have

only to place this beetle in a kettle of boiling water, saying over and over again the names of what you want to eat. In three minutes, take off the lid, and there will be your dinner, smoking hot, and cooked more perfectly than any food you have ever eaten."

- Oh my goodness! This is so cool! What did the old monk tell Widow Wang she had to do to make the golden beetle's magic powers work? Grab your paper and let's jot this down. [Pause.] So...
 - First, she had to place the beetle in a kettle, or pot, of boiling water. [Model writing: 1. golden beetle in pot of boiling water.]
 - Then, she had to say the names of the food she wanted over and over again. For how long [Pause.] Right, three minutes! [Model writing: 2. three minutes say names of food.]
 - Finally, she could take off the lid and her smoking hot, perfect dinner would be ready to eat. [Model writing: 3. take off the lid and enjoy!]
- What do you think Widow Wang is thinking now? Do you think she believes the old monk or thinks he is crazy? Hmmm?

"May I try it now?" she asked eagerly.

"As soon as I am gone."

When the door was shut, the old woman hurriedly kindled a fire, boiled some water, and then dropped in the golden beetle, repeating these words again and again:

"Dumplings, dumplings, come to me,
I am thin as thin can be.
Dumplings, dumplings, smoking hot,
Dumplings, dumplings, fill the pot."

Would those three minutes never pass? Could the monk have told the truth? Her old head was nearly wild with excitement as clouds of steam rose from the kettle. Off came the lid! She could wait no longer.

- Oh wow! So Widow Wang decided to give it a try. I believe she might have been thinking:
 - Maybe the old monk isn't crazy?
 - Maybe he is telling the truth and this golden beetle could be the answer to all of our problems?

Students write notes on their paper.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maybe, this could be the end of my hunger, Ming-li's hunger, and even Tabby and Blackfoot's hunger, too? ● So, Widow Wang is getting ready to cook her up something yummy. What is it that she wants to eat? [Pause.] Right, she wants dumplings. If you've never had dumplings, they're just a little ball of dough that is usually boiled, like Widow Wang's, or fried. They are delicious. ● Widow Wang doesn't just chant "dumplings, dumplings, dumplings," for three minutes. What does she do instead? [Pause.] Yes, she has a little rhyme. It's like she wants the dumplings so desperately that she is talking to them. What words does the author use to help us see her desperation? [Pause.] Good job! Yes, she says: <i>"come to me, I am thin as thin can be."</i> ● Why do you think Widow Wang feels like the three minutes will <i>"never pass"</i>? [Pause.] I agree, I bet this is the longest three minutes of her life! ● So, we read, "clouds of steam rose from the kettle. Off came the lid" What do you think Widow Wang saw in the boiling pot? [Pause.] I know, the suspense is killing me, too! But we'll have to wait and find out in our next lesson! 	
<p>Guided Practice (8 min)</p> <p>[We recommend that you broadcast all notes from this section either in a slide or chart paper. Students will need these notes for their independent practice].</p> <p>Let's take a few minutes, put our brains together, and get you ready for your independent practice. I'm going to ask you a few important questions. Grab your paper and get ready.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is the problem in <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i>? [Pause.] That answer is pretty close. Widow Wang, her son, Ming-li, and their two pets, Tabby the cat and Blackfoot the dog, are poor and very hungry. ● What led up to this problem? [Pause.] True! A horrible winter had led to a caved-in roof, tumbled-down wall, and a very sick Ming-li! He had pneumonia for a long time and his medicine to get better was expensive. This also meant that he was now out of work and he and his mother had no money to buy the things they needed - including food. ● What, in the eyes of Widow Wang, may be a solution to this problem? [Pause.] Yes! Widow Wang is surprised by a visit from an old monk, and thinking that he is there to 	<p>Students respond to guiding questions as they prep for independent practice.</p>

<p>beg for food, finds that he is in fact bringing her a gift from the gods: a magical golden beetle that can make any food they want.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we know yet, if this solution will work? [Pause.] Not yet! But we plan to find out in our next lesson, right! <p>So, let's take a few moments to chart out the characters in our fable up to this point. This will help us as we continue to read in upcoming lessons, and who knows, maybe we'll add others along the way! Use a clean space on your paper and follow me as I go.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm going to start out by drawing a chart that looks like this: a vertical line down the middle, and then a horizontal line straight across close to the top. Make sure to give yourself some space to write. Now, I'm going to add four more horizontal lines so that I now have six rows total, like this. [Draw your chart as shown on Slide L16-A or show Slide L16-A.] • Now, let's add some headers to our chart. I'm going to write CHARACTERS in all capital letters at the top of my left column, and the words WHAT WE KNOW in all caps at the top of my right column. [Add to your chart as shown in Slide L16-B or show Slide L16-B.] See mine, here? Does your chart look like this? [Pause.] Good job! • Alright, time to fill it in! Let's start by adding our characters down the left column. Help me remember as I go! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Widow Wang ○ Ming-li ○ Old Monk ○ Tabby the cat ○ Blackfoot the dog • Okay, back up to the top, but let's move over to the right column, WHAT WE KNOW. Let's think about <i>what we know</i> about Widow Wang. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We know that Widow Wang is Ming-li's mother. She is poor and hungry. We know that she has a dog and a cat. She is visited by an old monk. He brings her a gift from the gods: a magical golden beetle. ○ So, these are the basic things we know about Widow Wang, but there is so much more! We know how she felt about Ming-li, right? We also know how she felt about the old monk's visit. We even know what she was thinking and what she did! I want you to add that information to your chart in just a moment. Let's take a look at 	<p>Students work on creating a character chart that they will complete for independent practice.</p>
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<p>our independent practice for today and it will all make sense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Add to chart as shown in Slide L16-C or show Slide L16-C.] 	
<p><u>Independent Work</u> (2 min) [Show slide L16-D.] Remember, <i>Why the Dog Hates the Cat</i> is told from a third-person, or omniscient, point of view, meaning the narrator knows EVERYTHING! When you read a story told from this point of view, you are looking through the eyes of the narrator, so <i>you</i> also know everything.</p> <p>Complete the remaining sections of your character chart by filling in the WHAT WE KNOW column with everything <i>you</i> know about each character. Make sure to add any and all of the character's thoughts, feelings, and actions that you can remember. Use a bulleted list so you have plenty of room for everything you'll want to add in each character's box.</p> <p>There are some characters that you know a lot about at this point in the fable, and some you know very little about. We can add to those as we learn more about them later in the story.</p> <p>When you are done with your character chart! Write a few sentences describing what <i>you</i> think Widow Wang found in the pot of boiling water when she took off the lid!</p> <p>Make sure to keep up with your character chart and your guess at what's in the pot. Have them ready for lesson two! [Repeat prompt and directions 2x.]</p>	<p>Students complete character chart.</p> <p>Students compose sentences describing what they think Widow Wang found in the pot.</p>
<p><u>Closing</u> (1 min) I enjoyed reading this Chinese fable with you today. I can't wait to find out what Widow Wang found in her boiling pot of water! I look forward to seeing you for our next lesson in Tennessee's At Home Learning Series! Bye!</p>	