

First Read Template

Title & Author: A River Lost by Lynn Bragg

Characters: Toopa (great grandmother), Sinec Mat (great granddaughter), Salmon Chief

First Read: The goal of the first read is to orient and engage students to the story. Word and comprehension support should not interrupt the basic flow of the story. Avoid extended discussions while you are reading the text. Give accurate, brief definitions for key vocabulary. Use different strategies when giving definitions.

Main idea of the story: How Arrow Lakes (Colville) peoples' lives & tribal lifeways centered around the Columbia River & an abundance of salmon & how construction of the Grand Coulee Dam forever changed those lifeways.
 please note: Reading only pgs 15-27 for this read, but familiarize yourself w/ entire book before beginning

Strategy to introduce this book: Activate prior knowledge, Think Aloud, discuss cover illustration, etc. Say: "This is grandma Toopa, her granddaughter Sinec Mat, & some of their family, & this is the great river. Toopa is going to show us how important & special this river is through her memories. Let's see what she has to say."

Vocabulary: Choose words that are related to understanding the story

falls - point to	platform - point to	celebrate - have a party & eating
salmon - point to, fish	perched - use body motion to illustrate	huckleberries - point to
spawn - to have babies	spear - point to, sharp point on a long stick	trade - when giving & getting something agreed upon
In-tee-tee-huh - Arrow Lakes for salmon	dangerous - could get hurt	share - give away / let someone use
cradle board - point to, baby carrier	rich - lots of, plentiful	thin out - to be less & less
canoe - point to, small boat w/ paddles	preserved - kept yummy long time	elders - older people, grandma & grandpa ages who we respect
teepee - point to, moveable home/tent		
chores - important jobs in families/homes		

Talking points during the story: Any points that will help in understanding the main idea - Think Aloud

- Start off by saying (p15) "Here is the river that's very important to Toopa & her family (point to). She is telling Sinec Mat about how life was for her when she was little. Let's hear." (Read pg 15)
- p19 - grandma Toopa really liked watching the salmon fall into the baskets & to watch her dad go get them out of the river. Let's see what that looked like. (turn pg)
- p20 - So it looks like Toopa's family caught fish w/ baskets, nets, AND spears (point to ea)! I spy someone else in this picture who likes to eat salmon (eagle).
- p23 - It looks like everyone is busy w/ important work here. That's a lot of salmon!
- p24 - Toopa is saying that salmon was like money to her people! They could trade salmon for other foods & things they needed during winter when it got cold & snowed. They didn't have stores to buy their food or blankets like we do, so they traded.
- p27 - It seems like kin-ka-now-ka had a very important job making sure everyone had enough salmon. He wanted everyone to share & be happy. That is a big responsibility, or job, he had.

Discussion Questions: should relate to the main idea. Say: "This was a part of grandma Toopa's story of life on the river. (point to cover of book) We will read more about Toopa & her family & what happened that changed their & the salmon's home on another day" → Discussion Q's on back

Discussion Questions Continued:

1. We saw that it took a lot of work to travel to the river summer camp every summer for Toopa & her family. Everyone had important jobs, what were some?
- Reference pages if necessary
2. We saw that salmon was very important to Toopa's family & tribe, why do you think so?
- Reference text if necessary
3. Have you ever been to the water w/ your family? Maybe a river, lake, ocean? What kinds of things did you do there?
4. What job would you like to have if you were living by the river w/ Toopa & her family?
- Reference pages w/ responsibilities

Notes: