

UNIT 1

Close Reading

Theme:
COOPERATION

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- I can participate in a discussion about a text.
- I can quote from a text when explaining what the text says and what I learn from the text.
- I can find the main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported.
- I can decide the meaning of important words in a text.

MATERIALS

- Copy of text for each student
- Copy of text for teacher

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON COOPERATION

This text-based discussion lesson is designed to:

- Provide students with regular **practice** with complex text and academic vocabulary
- Provide students with the opportunity to **hear text read** by a fluent reader (When students follow along, this supports their developing fluency)
- Provide students with the opportunity to engage in collaborative, text-based **conversations** about important ideas
- Provide students with off-game opportunities to **reflect** on important themes that may influence their in-game decision making

The lesson is designed so that while it contains challenge, the student experience is supportive. Design elements such as the teacher read-alouds and group discussions will support a range of student abilities and classroom settings.

AGENDA

Each discussion has five parts:

- Part 1: Bridge from the Game Environment (10 mins)
- Part 2: Whole class discussion (10 mins)
- Part 3: Small group discussion (10 mins)
- Part 4: Whole group share (10 mins)
- Part 5: Bridge to the Game (5 mins)

You know your students best. Use your know-ledge of your students to adapt the suggested facilitation to meet their needs and the learning environment. For example, you may re-read sections of the text during the discussion, work with a group that needs extra support, or preview important vocabulary.

AUTHENTIC TEXT-BASED LESSON (TIME: 45 MINUTES)

PART 1: BRIDGE FROM THE GAME ENVIRONMENT (10 minutes)

- **Introduce the reading. Say:** *So far in the game, you have been working with people at the Center to make sure people get help after the storm. Today we are going to step back and reflect on the need for cooperation during times of crisis. To think more about this we're going to work together to read and discuss a speech that President Obama made in New York City after communities along the coast were hit by Hurricane Sandy.*

- **Read the selection aloud to students as they follow along.** Listening to a fluent reader read a text aloud while following along is one way to help readers to develop reading fluency.

PART 2: WHOLE CLASS DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions to the whole group:

1. Who made this speech and what is it about?
- 2a. What individuals or organizations does the President acknowledge as collaborating in the response efforts? What needs do these individuals or organizations help to meet after a storm?
- 2b. Based on your experience in the game, is there anyone else the President should have thanked? What needs does this individual or organization help to meet after a storm?
3. What distractions from getting the job done does President Obama talk about? Were any of the characters in the game affected by these distractions? How?

PART 3: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (Groups of 3 or 4): (10 minutes)

Ask each student group to re-read one of the following paragraphs in which President Obama speaks specifically about cooperation: Paragraph 3; Paragraph 4; Paragraph 6; Paragraph 7; Paragraph 8.

After students re-read the assigned paragraphs, have them discuss the following questions:

- What is President Obama communicating about cooperation in this part of his speech?
- Circle the words President Obama uses to describe cooperation. How do his word choices help him to communicate his ideas effectively?

PART 4: WHOLE GROUP SHARE (8 minutes)

Groups share their responses to the questions they discussed in the small group.

PART 5: BRIDGE TO THE GAME (5 minutes)

Say: *Think about your experience so far in the game and what President Obama says about the need for cooperation after a major storm. What could your character or other characters do differently to increase the feeling of cooperation in the community? How will this reading and discussion influence the decisions you make in the next episodes of the game?*

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.C

Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1.D

Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from the discussions.

Remarks by the President After Surveying Damage from Hurricane Sandy (Excerpted)

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

November 15, 2012

Staten Island, New York

1. Thank you so much, everybody. I'm going to be relatively brief. I came up here right after the storm, and I promised to everybody that I was speaking on behalf of the country when I said we are going to be here until the rebuilding is complete, and I meant it. So I'm going to come back today, but I'm also going to be coming back in the future to make sure that we have followed through on that commitment.
2. I want to thank the outstanding leadership that's been provided by state and local officials. Obviously, Governor Cuomo and Mayor Bloomberg have done an outstanding job. To borough president Molinaro, thank you so much for your leadership at a time when the folks here on this island were obviously going through extraordinarily difficult times.
3. Across the board, what we've seen is cooperation and a spirit of service. And for the first responders who are here, the police officers, the firefighters, the EMS folks, the sanitation workers who sometimes don't get credit but have done heroic work, we are so grateful to you because you exemplify what America is all about. I'm grateful to the Red Cross who has been so responsive not just here, but in disasters around the country. And I want to thank all the volunteers.
4. And during difficult times like this, we're reminded that we're bound together and we have to look out for each other. And a lot of the things that seem important, the petty differences melt away, and we focus on what binds us together and that we as Americans are going to stand with each other in their hour of need.
5. Now, more specifically, we are now still in the process of recovery. As you can see, as you travel around parts of Staten Island, as we flew over parts of—other parts of the city and the region that had been impacted, there is still a lot of cleanup to do. People still need emergency help. They still need heat. They still need power. They still need food. They still need shelter. Kids are still trying to figure out where they're going to school. So there's a lot of short-term, immediate stuff that has to be dealt with.
But what we've also already heard is that there's going to be some long-term rebuilding that's required. You look at this block and you know that this is a community that is deeply rooted. Most of the folks that I met here have been here 20, 30, 50 years. They don't want to see their community uprooted, but there's got to be a plan for rebuilding, and that plan is going to have to be coordinated, and they're going to need resources.
And I'm confident that we're going to be able to do it. But it's going to require everybody focused on getting the job done. We're going to have to put some of the turf battles aside. We're going to have to make sure that everybody is focused on doing the job as opposed to worrying about who is getting the credit or who is getting the contracts or all that stuff that sometimes goes into the rebuilding process.
And that spirit and sense of togetherness and looking out for one another, that's what's going to carry us through this tragedy. It's not going to be easy. Not everybody is going to be satisfied. I have to tell you the insurance companies and some of the other private sector folks who are involved in this, we need you to show some heart and some spirit in helping people rebuild as well.
I'm very proud of you, New York. You guys are tough. You bounce back, just as America always bounces back. The same is going to be true this time out. All right, thank you very much, everybody. ❖
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READABILITY MEASURES: Reading Maturity: 8.8 • Flesh-Kincaid 7.5