

## Mini-Lesson

Vocabulary Routine: *redemption* (L 4, 5)

The prefix ‘re’ means *again*. The base word ‘deem’ means *belief or opinion*. The word ‘redeem’ means *to bring a belief or an opinion back*. The suffix ‘tion’ makes this word a noun. ‘Redemption’ means *an act in which an opinion or belief is brought back*. This word has very positive connotations. It usually refers to being returned to a state of positive opinions or beliefs.

## Video: “Andrew Carnegie—Rags to Riches, Power to Peace”

Produced by Sonita Gale, 2015

Retrieved on June 19, 2018, from <https://vimeo.com/185159967>

Also available on Amazon Prime <https://www.amazon.com/Andrew-Carnegie-Riches-Power-Peace/dp/B01KYBPJ6O>

**This video tells about...**Andrew Carnegie’s life. The section of the video students will view (0:00 – 18:52) focuses specifically on Carnegie’s rise from rags to riches, and his famous essay, *The Gospel of Wealth*.

**In this lesson...**you be modeling how readers focus on gathering important information while reading. You will teach students that sometimes readers use outside sources to help them build background knowledge about a topic and gain understanding of the author’s message.

### Learning Targets:

Read closely to monitor comprehension (RI 1)

- Predict

Determine central ideas or themes (RI 2)

Show understanding of important story elements (RI 3)

- Plot

Integrate content presented in diverse media formats (RI 7)

Analyze how two texts address similar topics (RI 9)

Convey ideas precisely using appropriate vocabulary (L 3, 6)

Engage in collaborative discussion (SL 1, 2, 4, 6)

## Connect:

*We have been learning...*

...that good readers recognize the turning point at the end of quadrant 3 and determine the author's message. In our previous lesson, we identified the turning point of the book *The Westing Game* as that moment when the reader learns that Berthe Erica Crow is Sam Westing's former wife. We also learn that she believes that Sam Westing is still alive and that her life is in danger.

## Teach:

*Today I am going to teach you...*

...that good readers use the turning point to think about the author's message.

We have been collecting evidence to show that things aren't always what they seem. Until this point in the book, we believed Sam Westing to be dead. We also believed that he was murdered by one of the heirs. Now we know that we may have been deceived. It is possible that Sam Westing is alive and therefore has not been murdered at all!

The fact that Sam Westing may still be alive is only the first part of the turning point. The second part of the turning point is Crow's belief that Sam Westing is using the Westing game to seek his revenge. She believes her life is in danger. If Ellen Raskin's message is "that things aren't always what they seem," then this probably is *not* true. Sam Westing likely staged his own death for another purpose.

Today, we are going to use an outside text to help us think about what that purpose might be. We are going to be looking again at the life of Andrew Carnegie. We know that his life, just like Sam Westing's life, exemplifies the American Dream. The similarities between the life of Andrew Carnegie and the life of Sam Westing may help us consider why Sam Westing may have chosen to stage his own death.

As we watch the video, watch me as I model how I recognize similarities between the life of Andrew Carnegie and the life of Sam Westing.

Notice how I use these similarities to think about the message of the book.

Today we will be using this stem for turn and talk:

When the video said \_\_\_\_\_, I was thinking this was important because \_\_\_\_\_. This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_.

**Play the video: "Andrew Carnegie—Rags to Riches, Power to Peace"**

## Model:

**Stop after:** “I will cure such poverty when I become a man.” (4:31)

**When the video said** Andrew Carnegie vowed to cure his poverty when he came to be a man, **I was thinking this was important because** this is a similarity between Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing. **This makes me think** that both men represent the ambitious climb toward wealth.

## Guided Practice:

**Stop after:** “I am determined to build my fortune.” (7:16)

What did you think was important here, and what are you predicting will happen in *The Westing Game*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the video said \_\_\_\_\_, I was thinking this was important because \_\_\_\_\_. This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_.

## Guided Practice:

**Stop after:** “The more I earn, the more I can give away, and for the next twenty years, the fast changing American economy allows my wealth to grow and grow.” (10:30)

What did you think was important here, and what are you predicting will happen in *The Westing Game*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the video said \_\_\_\_\_, I was thinking this was important because \_\_\_\_\_. This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_.

(Nudge students to consider the fact that Sam Westing did not fake his own death in order to seek revenge, but to give his money away.)

### **Guided Practice:**

**Stop after:** “Nothing has ever wounded me so deeply.” (14:40)

What did you think was important here, and what are you predicting will happen in *The Westing Game*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the video said \_\_\_\_\_, I was thinking this was important because \_\_\_\_\_. This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_.

(Nudge students to consider the fact that Sam Westing did not fake his own death in order to seek revenge, but to seek redemption.)

### **Guided Practice:**

**Stop after:** “That was his mission in life, really; to make a lot of money and then give it away.” (18:52)

What did you think was important here, and what are you predicting will happen in *The Westing Game*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the video said \_\_\_\_\_, I was thinking this was important because \_\_\_\_\_. This makes me think \_\_\_\_\_.

(Nudge students to consider the fact that Sam Westing did not fake his own death in order to seek revenge, but to give his money away.)

### **Stretch It:**

Discuss: How does the turning point in the book *The Westing Game* communicate Ellen Raskin’s message?

### **Link:**

*Today and every day when you read...*

...I want you to consider how information in outside sources might help you understand the message of a story better.