

Monday 18th January 2021

LO: To explore one of the main themes of the book

Context: The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman

In the lesson today, you are going to:

- Activate prior knowledge – use what you already know and bring it to the learning;
- Strategy check - check the strategies you will need to use the answer the questions;
- Analyse part of the text – looking in closer detail at the text;
- Reflect on what you have learnt and summarise it.

You will need:

- Pen/pencil
- Paper/notebook
- BRAIN! – you need to think during the lesson as well as listen – remember what Mrs Martin says about 'active learning' – you need to make effort!
- To minimize distractions – turn the TV off, move your phone and devices, get the cat off the laptop!!

Key Question

There is a key question in this lesson which reflects one of the themes of the book. A theme is an overall idea that runs through the book. The reader may interpret the theme but the author sometimes makes this theme very clear to the reader (it is made explicit).

A key theme in 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' is that Lila is a strong female. So, the key question today is:

How does Lila reject the stereotypical characteristics of a female?

'Stereotypical characteristics' is underlined because there are tricky words!

'Stereotypical' means we are asking 'what is the expected view of Lila as a girl?' The reader is thinking about what society expects for a girl. There would be a majority view (what most people think) of what she should be like.

This may not be what we expect of girls now as things have changed and we have moved forward. But, we are going to explore female characters in older literature; we will think about the image of them and what they were like in the past.

'Characteristics' are our personality traits; they make us who we are. Our characteristics mean that we behave or react in certain ways to different situations.

In this lesson, we are going to explore Lila's character traits and think about how behaving which are not stereotypical of a girl at the time leading to her being rejected by those around her and society.

So the key theme that is being explored in all the learning today is:

How does Lila reject the stereotypical characteristics of a female?

Keep that question locked in your brain and have it at the front of your mind as you do the activities. Note it down in your books so that you see it as you learn!

Activity: Activating prior knowledge (18:20 in the video)

For your first task, you need to think about what you already know about girls in books.

- **Step 1** – think about **three** female characters in books or films that you already know. Make a list of them in your notebook.
- **Step 2** – think about the following questions about the female characters that you have thought of. *You can discuss these with an adult or sibling if that would help.* Make small notes answering the questions:
 - What were they like?
 - How did they act?
 - What did they do?
 - Were they important to the story?

There is a helpful slide at 18:20 in the video with a visual prompt to help you.

For the summary of answers on this, you will need to go to 17:19 in the video to see the pictures of the characters Ms. Johnson has chosen for this activity and refer to the 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet.

So, how is Lila similar to Matilda and Hermione and not like Cinderella? How does she show that she is not showing the stereotypical characteristics of a female character?

Activity: Strategy Check (15:55)

A strategy check is remembering what we do in every reading lesson to be able to answer the inference and retrieval questions that are asked.

These are:

- Underline the key words in the question;
- Skim and scan the text for information – don't read the text word for word but, using your finger, trace the text for the key words from the question. Once you find them, read above and below them to understand the context they are written in;
- Search for hidden clues in the text – a hidden clue can be the notion of something that the character is feeling, e.g. if they are enjoying something, the text may say that they are laughing.

There is a useful visual and explanation at 15:39 for this in the video.

If you use these strategies during the lesson, they will really help you to answer questions.

Activity: Analysing the text (13:58)

The key question that we are answering today is:

How does Lila reject the stereotypical characteristics of a female?

So, we are going to use the text to see how Lila is different from the traditional female characters that we have seen in some stories.

You will need to use the video at this point as the text will be displayed on the screen. Go to 13:22 for the first question.

Lalchand says 'this is no place for a girl.' This shows that his view is that Lila is not in a context that is suitable for a girl; this would have been a view held by many men and wider society at the time.

Why does Lalchand say this is 'no place for a girl'?

Why does Lalchand think that being a Firework Maker is something that a girl shouldn't do? What is it about being a Firework Maker that means that Lila can't be one?

This needs to be thought about in more detail so your task is to think about the traditional characteristics that are given to girls and what would be needed to be a Firework Maker.

You need to make notes in a chart like the one at 12:26 so please go to look at the visual.

- Think about the characteristics that can sometimes be given to girls, e.g. don't run like a girl (what does this actually mean?!), sweet, innocent, etc. Make notes on one side of the table.
- Now think about the characteristics that would be thought of being needed for being a Firework Maker, e.g., brave, intelligent, etc. What might the job be like, e.g. dangerous? Make notes on the other side of the table.

For the summary of answers on this, you will need to go to 11:19 in the video to see the table that Ms. Johnson has made and refer to the 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to her explanation.

Using the information that you have just generated through the last activity, try to answer the original question. This is displayed again at 10:14 in the video. Note down your answer to the question.

Why does Lalchand say this is 'no place for a girl'?

For the answer to the question, you will need to go to 9:53 in the video and use the summary on 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to the explanation.

You will need to use the video at this point as the text will be displayed on the screen. Go to 9:02 for the second question.

The second question is based on an interesting theme that Philip Pullman has chosen. Lalchand refers to how Lila looks and is wondering how he will find Lila

a husband. This is what matters to him the most; if a husband was found for a daughter, it was thought that he could look after her. Lalchand's view was a common view to have.

Why does Lalchand want to find her (Lila) a husband?

Ms. Johnson has given you a BIG clue already about how to answer this but refer back to the notes that you made about the traditional view of girls. Think about why Lalchand considers it so important for Lila to have a husband. What is the traditionally held view of girls?

For the answer to the question, you will need to go to 7:13 in the video and use the summary on 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to the explanation.

You will need to use the video at this point as the text will be displayed on the screen. Go to 6:39 for the third question.

This question is focused on how Lila is feeling and what she wants. The text gives us a very clear idea. Lila is horrified! Note the use of the very short sentence for impact. 'Horrified' is a very strong emotion; this was the worst thing that Lila has probably ever heard!

Why was Lila horrified?

Think about why Lila was so horrified by this thought and make a note of why you think this is. When thinking about the answer, consider what you already know about Lila. You have looked at her in some detail and know what her character is like.

For the answer to the question, you will need to go to 5:42 in the video and use the summary on 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to the explanation.

You will need to use the video at this point as the text will be displayed on the screen. Go to 5:23 for the fourth question.

For these questions, you need to note that, in the text, both characters express the idea of being alarmed at what the other person thought. They didn't realise that the other person was thinking so differently to them.

Who do you think has the 'wrong idea'?

Who do you think that Philip Pullman thinks has the wrong idea?

In your opinion, who do you think has the 'wrong idea'? Is it Lalchand or is it Lila. Also, consider what Philip Pullman thinks. He has written the book so he has what we call 'author intent'; he has deliberately included something to make the reader think in more detail about something. So, do you think Philip Pullman is on the side of Lalchand...or is he on the side of Lila? Could he be on both sides?

For the answer to the question, you will need to go to 4:01 in the video and use the summary on 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to the explanation.

Activity: Reflecting on and summarising the text (3:22)

Returning the original key question for today:

How does Lila reject the stereotypical characteristics of a female?

We have thought about this question in a number of ways and it's now time to have a go at answering it in full.

You need to make notes in a chart like the one at 3:02 so please go to look at the visual.

- On the left-hand side of the table, the traditional characteristics of a girl are displayed. Think about what these again. These are the stereotypical views of females in literature which have been in place for a long time but are slowly starting to change.
- Now, think about Lila. How does Lila reject or fit some of these ideas? Think about her characteristics and personality traits that you know about her from the text. Note down what you think.

For the summary of answers on this, you will need to go to 2:13 in the video to see the table that Ms. Johnson has made and refer to the 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet. Listen to her explanation.

In the video, go to 1:39. Answer the final question based on the learning from today's lesson using the sentence starter that Ms. Johnson gives you:

Lila rejects the stereotypical characteristics of a female character because...

For the answer to this, you will need to refer to the 'Activity Answers 18.01.21' sheet.

Finally, make a small prediction on what will happen in the book based on the question:

Do you think Lila will disobey her father and become a Firework Maker?

Yes, because...

No, because...

Make a note of your answers.

There is no definite answer to this question as it is a prediction. However, you should be thinking about your previous learning to answer this as it is fairly clear from what we know about Lila!