



Bug Club

This is your free
sample of **The Song of Sky
and Sand** teaching card.

The Song of Sky and Sand (Chapter 2)

Stephen Davies

Year 4, Autumn Term, Week 7

Text Outline

Ramata's family discuss the water problem. Grandma says they will have to go back to the old ways. Sleeping outside with Grandma, Ramata starts singing the pounding song she heard the old lady singing. Grandma remembers the song from her childhood and sings it to Ramata as they lay down to sleep. Children begin to learn about some of the old ways of surviving during a drought.

Day 1

Activity	Comprehension Strategies
Children familiarise themselves with the following words by completing the activities in their workbooks: well, mosquito net, acacia tree, root, elderly, pounding, shuffled	Clarifying

Day 2

Activity	Comprehension Strategies
Children pre-read the text for the week's work (either independently, in pairs, or by having the text read to them by a TA or using the eBook narration). Using their workbooks, children write their thoughts about the three key questions and generate their own questions. The three key questions are: 👁️ How did people drink during a drought in the past? 🔍 Why is Grandma not scared? ❓ Why doesn't Ramata's family move to the city?	Summarising Connecting Activating Prior Knowledge Questioning

Day 3

Teacher discussion: see reverse of card.
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Day 4

Activity	Comprehension Strategies
In pairs, children revisit the questions discussed on Day 3 and reflect on how their thinking has developed by writing in their workbooks. The prompt for their notes is: • Describe what Ramata is thinking and the things you think she likes to do for fun.	Summarising Visualising Connecting

Day 5

Activity	Comprehension Strategies
Children complete a writing activity in their workbooks. Ramata has started at your school. The children write Ramata's letter home to Grandma. • Support: Children explain why they would or would not be friends with Ramata. • Extend: Children compare their normal evening with Ramata's.	Activating Prior Knowledge Connecting Visualising

Day 3

Summarising	
Ask one child to tell you what has happened in the chapter. Ask the next child to add further details. Ask the children to summarise the main issue in this chapter, (there is no water).	
Clarifying	
Ask children if there were any words they found confusing while reading and help to clarify these words for them by asking questions. For example: <i>Does the context help you understand the meaning of the word “murmured”?</i> <i>How could we find out the meaning? What is the root of the word “murmured”?</i>	
🔍 Looking Question	Comprehension Strategies to Observe
How did people drink during a drought in the past? Questions to develop dialogue further: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did they suck?• How will the animals find water?• Is this the first drought?	Summarising: Can children find the information that people used to suck tree roots? Connecting: Can children understand that there have been droughts in the past – before the pump? Predicting: Can children predict what will happen if they don't find water? Questioning: Can children ask questions about what will happen to the animals?
Linked Resources on ActiveLearn Primary	
Use these resources to help children comprehend the text. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acacia trees• Water well in Africa• Cattle in Mali	
🔍 Clue Question	Comprehension Strategies to Observe
Why is Grandma not scared? Questions to develop dialogue further: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is Ramata scared?• What happened in the old days?• What is the song about?• Would you be scared?	Connecting: Can children connect Grandma's age to her reaction to the drought? Summarising: Can children explain why Ramata is scared? Connecting: Can children locate clues that indicate that Grandma has lived through a drought before? Connecting: Can children interpret the words of the song to deduce that it is about a drought?
❓ Thinking Question	Comprehension Strategies to Observe
Why don't Ramata's family move to the city? Questions to develop dialogue further: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does the family earn money?• How would they work in the city?• What is good about their lifestyle?	Activating Prior Knowledge: Can children understand how the family lives? Activating Prior Knowledge: Can children compare their knowledge of life in cities with the family's way of life? Activating Prior Knowledge: Can children give an opinion about Ramata's lifestyle and justify it with evidence from the text?
Predicting	
At the end of the discussion, ask children to predict what they think will happen next in the book by prompting them with the following question: What's going to happen next? How will the families search for water?	

That's the end of
your free sample.

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