

## 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: “How Andrew Carnegie Became the Richest Man in the World”

Produced by Business Casual, November 22, 2019

Retrieved on October 3, 2023, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNYkor8IDoA>

**This video tells about...**Andrew Carnegie’s life and his rise from rags to riches. The video highlights his ruthless business practices and his philanthropy. Please note: This video does have an embedded advertisement (0:29 – 0:59 and 14:30 – end).

**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.

### Power Standards:

#### Craft and Structure (4-6)

The student has an inferential understanding of the ideas in the text including key vocabulary, character traits/feelings/motives, the author’s craft, and the author’s message/theme.

#### Integration of Knowledge (7-9)

The student builds knowledge while reading and connects this knowledge to other sources.

### 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 trailer: "Andrew Carnegie—Rags to Riches, Power to Peace"**

## Model:

**Stop after:** "They would restart their lives from scratch in Pittsburgh, the hub of manufacturing, but still found themselves unable to escape hardship in their new country." (2:02)

**When the video said** Andrew Carnegie's family immigrated from Scotland to the America to escape poverty, **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:** “It would later be Tom’s advice to invest in stocks that provided Carnegie with his first taste of capitalism.” (3:25)

What did you think was important here, and what is similar about Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing?

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:** “But this note would go unfulfilled.” (5:22)

What did you think was important here, and what is similar about Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing?

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:** “He was also notorious for requiring employees to work 364 days a year, only allowing for rest on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.” (6:14)

What did you think was important here, and what is similar about Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing?

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:** “In fact, by 1900 the company would produce more steel than the entire nation of Great Britain.” (12:06)

What did you think was important here, and what is similar about Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing?

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:** “Perhaps he viewed donating his money as a way to atone for his business sins.”  
(14:30)

What did you think was important here, and what is similar about Andrew Carnegie and Sam Westing?

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 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.