Lesson Preparation Study

Christine Torres, 5th grade teacher at Springfield Prep, uses the packet her students will be completing as her main tool for preparing to teach.

On Your Own  Annotate Christine Torres’ marked-up packet:

- Mark with an “E” places where Christine drafts an exemplar response — the answer she hopes a typically successful student in her class would provide.
- Mark with a “P” places where Christine makes notes to drive the pacing of her lesson.
- Mark with a “Q” places where Christine prepares questions she will ask.

With Colleagues (or on Your Own)  After annotating, consider these questions:

- How does this preparation help Christine productively respond to evidence of student understanding and misunderstanding during the course of the lesson?
- How does this preparation help Christine manage time as her lesson unfolds?

Apply to an Upcoming Lesson

1. Doug argues in the accompanying blog post that creating your exemplar by completing the work as a student is the “single most important step in preparing to teach.” Whether your students are working in a handout, on loose leaf, or in a notebook, choose a few key questions you will ask and draft the correct, high-quality response you would want to hear.
2. Add three timestamps to whatever lesson planning document you use. Pick three moments in your lesson where you want to be disciplined about either (a) spending a fairly short, finite amount of time (2-4 minutes) and/or (b) the bulk of the time.
3. Draft two questions that you will have at-the-ready in case students (a) nail a question/concept and need to be pushed or (b) struggle and need support.
During the German occupation of World War II, Denmark was forced to supply Germany with food and other materials. This created shortages for the country, meaning they did not have enough of these supplies left for their citizens. The government was forced to begin rationing to deal with the problem. Rationing refers to a controlled sharing of food or other goods when resources are limited. Typically, a citizen would receive a booklet of coupons stating his or her rations of a whole range of goods each month, and then he or she would have to use the coupons to make each purchase. Each person's ration was a set amount, controlled by the government, to ensure everyone received a fair share of scarce resources. Some supplies, like coffee, tea, and leather were not available or very difficult to procure during wartime.

1. Imagine the Danish people did not have enough food, clothing, or other important materials but did not begin a rationing system. What might happen? Why?

   If the Danish people did not begin a rationing system, some people might not have what they need to survive, while others have enough (or more than enough).

2. Think back to Chapter 1. Explain why Mama told Kirsti there will only be cupcakes "when the soldiers leave."

   Mama told Kirsti there would only be cupcakes "when the soldiers leave" because there won't be ingredients to make cupcakes until the occupation ends & the rationing system is lifted.

3. Challenge: What might cupcakes symbolize or represent to the family?

   Cupcakes might symbolize the (carefree, joyful) life they lived before the occupation. Also possible: worry-free times/life less complicated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Simple Simplicity</th>
<th>Nature Nature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Is young, innocent, lacks knowledge</em></td>
<td><em>Innocent or knowledge experience or lack</em></td>
<td><em>Adverb adverb</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He was the picture demonstration.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My naive sister believed she could be a* naive (adj)*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Related Pairs of Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vocabulary:** Sollem, Torment, Naive
Hans Christian Andersen and the Power of Fairy Tales

Hans Christian Andersen was a Danish author best known for writing children’s stories, and his fairy tales still have a huge influence on children to this day. When you think of fairy tales, chances are you have some of Andersen’s stories in mind, like "The Ugly Duckling," "The Little Mermaid," and "The Emperor's New Clothes."

Fairy tales are, by definition, stories that share a moral with their audience, often children. They’re full of common themes and narrative devices, including binary oppositions (like good and evil), instantly recognizable types (like the hero and villain), and enchanted characters and settings. There is usually an element of magic or wonder – the rules of the ordinary world don’t always apply.

Many of Hans Christian Andersen’s tales focus on the struggles of misfits and outsiders, and this is something with which Andersen was all too familiar—he was bullied as a child. Universally, people enjoy a story in which truth wins out over lies, kindness is rewarded, obstacles are overcome by hard work and love, and good triumphs over evil. We enjoy escaping into the fantasy of a happy ending.

1. Considering the purpose of fairy tales, why would Annemarie include “feasts of pink frosted cupcakes” in the story she makes up for Kirsti?

Annemarie includes cupcakes bc she is making up a fantasy for Kirsti. She knows Kirsti loves cupcakes, so she tells the story as an escape.

Pages 12-14: On Your Own

2. We encounter a new character in this section. Who is she? What do we learn about her? Jot your observations in the box below.

Notes
- Annemarie had a sister named Lise who died
- What can we infer about Lise?
  - How do you know?
  - Why do you say that?
3. Consider the story Papa tells Annemarie on page 13. What might King Christian symbolize or represent to the people of Denmark during the German occupation?

- King Christian might symbolize...
- Peaceful resistance to German Occupation (as leader)
- Danish identity
- Hope → rise against Germans (peacefully)
  → things will one day return to the way they were

---

Pages 14-17 (10 min)

4. Imagine that the blue carved trunk is a symbol. What might it represent to Annemarie? Does it have the same meaning for Mama and Papa? How do they interact with it differently?

The blue carved trunk might symbolize Lise’s memory, which is why she looks through it to remember her. It may have the same meaning for Mama and Papa, but they don’t open the trunk because it’s too painful for them.

---

A trousseau (pronounced troo-so) is the clothing, linens (sheets, pillowcases, etc.) and other items collected by a bride for her marriage.
Flashback
Have you ever been in a situation that triggered memories about something that happened in the past? This is called a flashback. Flashback is one of the most popular literary devices used in writing. In literature, a flashback is a moment in which a character remembers an earlier event that happened before the current point in the story.

Why Do Authors Use Flashbacks?
Flashbacks can add background information, develop a character’s conflict, help the reader understand present events, create a theme in the story, or have an emotional impact on the reader. Flashbacks can also create suspense or allow the reader to see the contrast between present and past.

Identifying Flashbacks
As readers, we must keep track of shifts in time so we don’t get confused about when events are happening. Sometimes an author will include a specific memory of one moment in a character’s life, but other times he or she will include a more general recollection of something that used to happen often. An author can signal the beginning and end of a flashback in a variety of ways.

- **Time words:**
  - “Years ago…”
  - “Then…”
  - “When he was younger…”

- **Changes in verb tense:**
  - Often, novels are written in the simple past tense:
    - “Her laughter stopped. Her heart seemed to skip a beat.”
  - In a flashback, the author might shift to past perfect tense:
    - “Her laughter had stopped. Her heart had seemed to skip a beat.”

- **Words that signal the flashback is over:**
  - Now
  - Today
  - These days
  - New character action or interruption of the present (ending the memory)
Annotation Task: Reread page 12. As you read:

- Note where any flashbacks begin
- Note where any flashbacks end
- Jot any clues that show you're reading a flashback

5.

Starts w/ "She had seen him often, when she was younger"
- he had come, had taken her
- when Annemarie was a little girl
Flashback ends w/ Annemarie turned her head on the pillow

Signaled end of FB

5 min

What phrase signaled the end of the flashback? Why does the flashback end at this moment? Consider how Annemarie feels about these memories.

The flashback ends be Annemarie doesn't want to think about her sister anymore. The memories of use bring her sadness, so she thinks about the king instead.

Annotation Task: On Your Own

Reread pages 13-17. As you read:

- Note where any flashbacks begin
- Note where any flashbacks end
- Circle any clues that show you're reading a flashback

5 min

She was little, then, only 7 years old (14)
Annemarie had shivered (14)
Three years ago (14)
Mama had been (14)

Notes

Had said (15)
Had pictured (15)
Uncle Henrik had told her (16)
And now, three years later (16)

If time, show call exemplar

©Reading Reconsidered Curriculum
6. Reread the closing sentences of this chapter from page 17:

The whole world had changed. Only the fairy tales remained the same.

How do the flashbacks in this chapter help to show what Annemarie means by this?

The flashbacks show that Annemarie's life has gone from a carefree and happy childhood to one that has experienced loss and is dominated by German occupation.

Carefree, happy childhood changed by German occupation and death of sister → no longer naive + innocent

Additional Insights

If kids say her life is different or that it has changed → push for specific details. (Prove it, how do you know)
Exit Ticket (10 min)

Consider the opening and closing of this chapter:

- **First line:** "Tell me a story, Annemarie," begged Kirsti as she snuggled beside her sister in the big bed they shared. "A fairy tale."
- **Last line:** "And they lived happily ever after," Annemarie recited, whispering into the dark, completing the tale for sister, who slept beside her, one thumb in her mouth.

Why might Lowry have chosen to start and end the chapter this way? Think about:

- Where does this chapter take place?
- What's the significance of fairy tales?

Possible responses:

- To show readers how much Annemarie's life has changed since German occupation and Lise's death. This is conveyed through the memories and the idea that fairy tales are the only thing that remain the same.
- To show readers that this entire chapter takes place inside of Annemarie's mind through her thoughts and memories.
- To show the reader that fairy tales serve as an escape for Annemarie. She can't change what her life is like now, but she can find happiness in the memories she has and the fairy tales she creates for Kirstie.