

## Mini-Lesson

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

The prefix 're' means *again*. The root 'sur' means *to rise*, and the Latin root 'rect' means *to make right*. The suffix 'ed' makes this word a past tense verb.

## Instructional Read-Aloud

### Topic: Phoenix (Mythology)

Retrieved February 28, 2018, from

[http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Phoenix\\_\(mythology\)](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Phoenix_(mythology))

**This article tells about...**the myth of the phoenix, comparing versions from various cultures. The article ends with a look at the phoenix in literature.

**In this lesson...**students will highlight important information and details about the myth of the phoenix. They will consider how this myth helps them think about the story of *Esperanza Rising* and its characters.

To prepare for this lesson, make a copy of "Phoenix (Mythology)" for each student.

### Learning Targets:

Read closely to understand diverse media (RI 1, 2, 3)

Interpret words and phrases (RI 4)

Integrate diverse media (RI 7)

Integrate information across texts (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 identify the important events as they read.

**Teach:**

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

...that good readers stop to learn more about topics that come up in the story in order to help them understand the story better.

After the fire, when Ramona decides that she and Esperanza will travel to California with Miguel's family to find work, Abuelita tries to comfort Esperanza. She says, "Do not be afraid to start over...Esperanza, do you remember the story of the phoenix, the lovely young bird that is reborn from its own ashes?...We are like the phoenix...Rising again with a new life ahead of us." (p. 50)

Today we are going to read an article to help us understand the myth of the phoenix. We will use the information in this article to help us understand the story of *Esperanza Rising* and its characters better.

As we read we will be highlighting important details.

Watch me as I model how I look for these details and highlight these details as I read.

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

When the article said \_\_\_\_, I thought this was an important detail because \_\_\_\_\_. This helps me understand \_\_\_\_\_.

**Begin reading** "Phoenix (Mythology)"

**Model:**

**Stop after reading the second paragraph.**

**When the article said** that the phoenix represents a cyclical process of life from death, **I thought this was an important detail because** this tells me that the myth of the phoenix is about death and life, sadness and joy, despair and hope. **This helps me understand** that Abuelita is probably reminding Esperanza of this story because of its message that life may be difficult, but in the end there will be happiness.

(Model highlighting important details.)

**Guided Practice:**

**Stop after reading the second section, titled “Mythical Origins: Egyptian”**

In Egyptian representation of the Phoenix, the Bennu bird, reflected a spiritual continuation of life after physical death and also reflected the rising and falling of the Nile river, which the Egyptians depended upon for survival.

What important information helps us understand the myth of the phoenix and how it relates to *Esperanza Rising*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the article said \_\_\_\_, I thought this was an important detail because \_\_\_\_\_. This helps me understand \_\_\_\_\_.

(Model highlighting important details.)

**Guided Practice:**

**Stop after reading the sections, titled “Greek” and “Oriental”.**

In the oriental representation of the Phoenix, called Feng-huang, symbolizes peace. The Feng-huang is immortal and appears in times of peace and prosperity.

What important information helps us understand the myth of the phoenix and how it relates to

*Esperanza Rising?*

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the article said \_\_\_\_, I thought this was an important detail because \_\_\_\_. This helps me understand \_\_\_\_.

(Model highlighting important details.)

### **Guided Practice:**

**Stop after reading the section titled “Judaism and Christianity”.**

In the Christian representation of the Phoenix is a metaphor for Christ’s resurrection.

What important information helps us understand the myth of the phoenix and how it relates to *Esperanza Rising*?

Turn and talk to your partners using this stem:

When the article said \_\_\_\_, I thought this was an important detail because \_\_\_\_. This helps me understand \_\_\_\_.

(Model highlighting important details.)

### **Stretch It:**

Throughout *Esperanza Rising*, Abuelita takes the role of teaching Esperanza about what she can expect from life. She is Esperanza’s mentor.

On page 14, Abuelita tells Esperanza, “There is no rose without thorns.”

**Discuss:** What do you think Abuelita means by these words?

On page 15 and on page 49, Abuelita tells Esperanza, "Do not be afraid to start over."

**Discuss:** What do you think she means by these words?

**Link:**

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

...I want you to use outside sources to help you understand the details of your book better.