

The Bridge Home

Written by Padma Venkatraman

Puffin Books

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LESSON FOCUS

Author craft: memory moments

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

One of the tools in an author's craft bag is the ability for characters to have memories. These memories allow for the reader to discover information or motivations they would not otherwise have known. The novel *The Bridge Home* has multiple character memories and students will practice analyzing the memory and infer the purpose.

LEARNING TARGETS

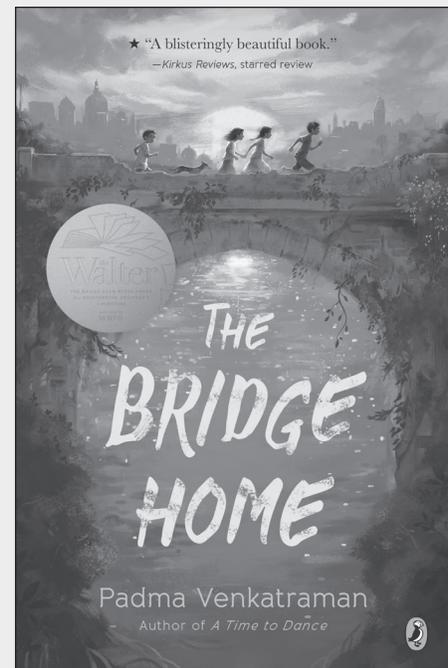
Students will analyze excerpts of memory moments.

- Infer the purpose. What is the author revealing?
- Make a connection. Why does the author need to communicate this memory to the reader?
- Predict how the memory impacts the theme or an impression of a character.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman
2. Author's Craft: Memory Analysis chart

Lesson Plan *for* Marvelous Middle Grade Reads



SUMMARY

Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Padma Venkatraman's stirring middle-grade debut.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Step 1: Introduce *The Bridge Home*.

Step 2: Direct Instruction or Review

Author’s Craft: Character Memory

1. Characters’ memories are inserted into the text by an author to reveal information.
2. Readers should ask themselves:
 - What is this showing me about the character?
 - How does this impact the story?
 - Do I believe this is remembered accurately?
 - Why does the author need to reveal this?

Step 3: Read chapter one aloud with students. After reading, distribute the Character Memory Analysis chart.

Step 4: Revisit page 2 for a closer read. Re-read the memory excerpt. Have students think about the reason an author inserts memories. Ask students to infer what purpose this memory is serving. Record your thoughts on the Author’s Craft Character Memory chart.

Step 5: Continue through the other examples. Read chapters 3-4.

Memory Excerpt	Purpose of the Memory
“I suppose you’d like to hear the fairytale you’d make me tell you every night we huddled together on the ruined bridge. The story that began with Once upon a time, two sisters ruled a magical land, and ended with Vigi and Rukku, always together.” (page 2)	(HINT: What does this show about the character?)
“We’d just finished our dinner when we heard Appa’s (father) heavy footsteps. The sound of him staggering up the stairs to our apartment told us all we needed to know.” (page 5)	(HINT: What does this reveal about the father and what his children think of him?)
“I was glad you’d fallen asleep, but I stayed awake, worrying and hoping. I hoped Amma (mother) would finally tell someone about how she had been hurt, and that they’d swoop down and rescue us. But I should have known she’d never tell.” (page 7)	