***AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry (4th/5th Grade)—*ANSWER KEY**

Lesson 1: Unit Introduction & Central Idea

**Reading of “2 Degrees”:**

1. **Highlight or underline your favorite lines.**
2. **Draw a star by the lines that make you think differently about the title of the poem, “2 Degrees”.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lines from the Poem | Your Meaning |
| Scientists say  if humans warm the world  more than 2 degrees  then catastrophe will hit | *Example Meaning:*  Scientists & experts warn that if the Earth warms more than 2 degrees Celsius, many different natural disasters, such as storms, fires, rising sea levels, will happen and harm the world. |
| Thousands, millions displaced  left wandering  wondering  what  happened? | **People will lose their homes and livelihoods/normalcy in life as a result of major catastrophes** |
| Like 0.5 degrees  are just crumbs  like the Marshall Islands  must look  on a map | **The amount of 0.5 degrees could be considered tiny or insignificant even though it could be the difference between normal climate and disaster for some countries, particularly small countries or islands like the Marshall Islands. Similarly, the Marshall Islands might look insignificant to some on a map due to their size.** |
| As I watch I think about futility  I think about the world  making the same mistakes  since the industrial revolution | **Kathy suggests that people are repeating history by polluting so much, as they did during the Industrial Revolution when smog and other pollutants became a serious issue.** |
| So so tired, wandering wondering  if the world will  wheel us out to rest in the sun  or will they just  dust their hands of us, wipe  them clean | **Kathy says she’s tired of wondering how the rest of the world respond to a disaster/catastrophe hitting the Marshall Islands—would the world just move on and forget about the Islands and the Marshallese people?** |
| That beyond  the discussions  are faces  all the way out here | **Beyond the discussions of what would happen with further climate change, there are real people, like those of the Marshall Islands, who are being affected by this issue. It has real and serious consequences.** |
| Walking wobbly  on the edge of the reef  not yet  under water | **If climate change continues and the Earth gets warmer, ocean levels will rise. Here Kathy points out that the edge of the reef is still above water, though it may not be for long if climate change is not addressed.** |

1. **What is the central idea of the poem?**

*Climate change is a significant problem with very real consequences, especially for less-protected and more at-risk populations such as the people of the Marshall Islands (where the author is from).*

1. **Using the chart on the previous page and looking back on the poem, find which lines support the central idea. Write three of those lines or phrases below:**

Examples more generally about climate change:

*Stanza 5: “****Scientists say***

***if humans warm the world***

***more than 2 degrees***

***then catastrophe will hit”***

*Stanza 6: “****Imagine North American wildfires increasing by 400%***

***animal extinction rising by 30%***

***fresh water declining by 20%***

***thousands, millions displaced***

***left wandering***

***wondering***

***what***

***happened?”***

Examples specifically related to Marshall Islands:

*End of stanza 7: “****I tell him for my islands 2 degrees***

*(lines 4-9):* ***is a gamble***

***at 2 degrees my islands,***

***the Marshall Islands will already be under water***

***this is why our leaders push***

***for 1.5”***

*Stanza 8: “****Seems small***

***like 0.5 degrees***

***shouldn’t matter***

***like 0.5 degrees***

***are just crumbs***

***like the Marshall Islands***

***must look***

***on a map***

***just crumbs you***

***dust off the table, wipe***

***your hands clean”***

1. **Reread the last stanza of “2 Degrees”. What message is Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner sending in the last stanza?**

*Kathy is trying to make the point that while discussions about climate change are important, it is also important and necessary to remember and consider how climate change really impacts people, specifically those in the Marshall Islands.*

**Read “Tell Them”:**

1. **Fill out the table below with what you think the lines from the poem mean.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lines from the Poem | Your Meaning |
| And when others ask you  where you got this  you tell them  they’re from the Marshall Islands | *Example Meaning:*  The author wants her friends to tell others that the baskets, earrings, etc. are from the Marshall Islands, so that more people know about the islands. |
| Show them where it is on a map  tell them we are a proud people  toasted dark brown as the carved ribs  of a tree stump | **Kathy wants her friends to tell and show those who ask about her gifts where the Marshall Islands are and about the Marshallese people, who Kathy describes as brown and proud.** |
| Tell them our islands were dropped  from a basket  carried by a giant | **The islands are small and in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, looking like something that may have been dropped between Asia and North America.** |
| Tell them we are sweet harmonies  of grandmothers mothers aunties and sisters  songs late into night | **Again, Kathy wants to tell others about the Marshallese people and their culture (through this description of family)** |
| Tell them  we are days  and nights hotter  than anything you can imagine | **Again describing the islands and people, Kathy talks about the Marshall Islands as if they and the Marshallese people are one, showing the significance of the islands to her identity.** |
| Tell them about the water  how we have seen it rising  flooding across our cemeteries  gushing over the sea walls  and crashing against our home | **As climate change issues grow, places that are more vulnerable, like islands, face the impact and damages of climate change earlier on and more intensely. Kathy says the Marshallese people are already facing rising sea levels that are destroying parts of life on the islands.** |
| Tell them // we are afraid  tell them we don’t know  of the politics // or the science  but tell we see // what is in our own backyard | **While the people of the Marshall Islands may not have the language or knowledge to explain what is happening scientifically, they are living with the consequences of climate change and know what is happening accordingly.** |
| But most importantly tell them  we don’t want to leave  we’ve never wanted to leave  and that we  are nothing without our islands. | **Kathy explains that the Marshall Islands are central to the identity of the Marshallese people, and that they do not want to leave their home due to such issues.** |

1. **What is the central idea of the poem?**

*Most people probably don’t know a lot about the Marshall Islands, so Kathy tells her friends to tell others about the islands and the Marshallese people when asked about the gifts Kathy sent. Kathy also wants her friends to talk about how climate change is already impacting the Marshall Islands and how important it is to the Marshallese people that they do not lose their home (the Marshall Islands).*

1. **Using the chart on the previous page and looking back on the poem, find which lines support the central idea. Write three of those lines or phrases below:**

*Last three lines of stanza 2/Stanza 3:*

***“And when others ask you***

***where you got this***

***you tell them***

***they’re from the Marshall Islands”***

*Anything from Stanza 4, especially those lines starting with “tell them..”*

*Anything from Stanza 5*

1. **What is the significance of the last five lines (the last example on the table)?**

*Kathy explains that the Marshall Islands are central to the identity of the Marshallese people, the culture, and the way they live life. Because of this importance of the Marshall Islands to the people, they do not want to leave their home and are worried about how of climate change might harm the islands and their ability to continue living there safely.*