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

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? |  |
| Like 0.5 degrees  are just crumbs  like the Marshall Islands  must look  on a map |  |
| As I watch I think about futility  I think about the world  making the same mistakes  since the industrial revolution |  |
| 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 |  |
| That beyond  the discussions  are faces  all the way out here |  |
| Walking wobbly  on the edge of the reef  not yet  under water |  |

1. **What is the central idea of the poem?**
2. **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:**



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

**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 |  |
| Tell them our islands were dropped  from a basket  carried by a giant |  |
| Tell them we are sweet harmonies  of grandmothers mothers aunties and sisters  songs late into night |  |
| Tell them  we are days  and nights hotter  than anything you can imagine |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| 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. |  |

1. **What is the central idea of the poem?**
2. **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:**



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