Brief Focus Lesson Template
Ask Someone to Define the Word for You.
Text: *Oh, Harry! by: Maxine Kumin*

CAFE Goal	Expand Vocabulary
CAFE Strategy	Ask someone to define the word for you.
Observe/Relate	Last week, my neighbor, Marianne, rang my doorbell. She showed me a flyer that said ***Meadows Farm Equestrian Show--Fun for the Whole Family—Saturday 10 a.m.-12 p.m***. *(make this flyer if you would like to share it with the class)*. She asked, "Do you want to go to the equestrian show on Saturday?" Oh, no, I thought—I don't know what *equestrian* means. What can I do? I didn't have a print dictionary on the table by the front door. My computer was turned off, so I couldn't quickly check the meaning online either. From looking at the words on the flyer, I couldn't figure out what *equestrian* meant. There were no pictures either. So I decided to ask Marianne the definition of *equestrian*. She kindly explained that it is another name for someone who rides horses. I thanked Marianne for telling me. On Saturday, we watched the horse riders at the show and had a great time! Now I'll never forget the meaning of *equestrian*.
Teach and Reinforce	**Establish purpose –** Today we are learning that our friends, family members, teachers, and classmates can help us by defining a word for us. Of course, good readers always try to figure out the meaning of a word themselves first. As you know, there are many ways to find out what a word means. You can look at the words around the unknown word for clues to its meaning. You can look at the pictures for help, too. If you can't figure out the meaning that way, you can look the word up in a dictionary or glossary. **Create urgency –** Words are very important. No one knows the meaning of every word. If you have tried to figure out the meaning of a word and don't have a dictionary, you can ask someone to define it for you. Once you discover the meaning of the word, you can go back to your reading. **Explicit teacher modeling –***Oh, Harry!* is a book about a wonderful horse that helps other animals in the barn and even saves a little boy. *(The book does not have page numbers, so simply pencil them in if you can)*. At the

	beginning of the text, the author describes Harry. She said that "His ears were long and his neck was short. His hooves were as thick as a telephone book..." I have to stop--I don't know the meaning of the word *hooves* on page 5, so what can I do? I'll look at the words around it, but that doesn't help much—I think that "hooves" is probably a word that tells something about Harry's body since the author already described the horse's ears and neck. But what part? I'm not sure. I don't have a dictionary, and there is no computer around. What can I do? I know…I'll ask a classmate. This is what I'll say…"Excuse me, but can you define the word *hooves* for me? It's spelled *h-o-o-v-e-s*. Or "Sorry to interrupt you, but do you know the meaning of the word *hooves, spelled h-o-o-v-e-s*? After the person tries to help you, be sure to say "thank you." If the person you ask doesn't know the word, say "thank you" anyway. You can always ask someone else. (*Follow the same procedure by pointing out other words from Oh, Harry! such as "filly" on page 8; "horrendous" on page 13; and "muzzle" on page 26. Be sure to lead students through the process of figuring out the target word before defining it for them*).
Practice	Think about three things you can do when you encounter a word that you don't know. Turn and talk to your partner about what you can do. After you have talked to your partner, I will ask for volunteers to share their ideas with the class.
Encourage and Plan	You just learned that using the strategy of "Ask Someone to Define the Word for You" can help you to understand the word so you can get back to your reading. It is a strategy that you can use after you have tried hard to find the meaning of the word yourself. Remember that all of us are always learning new words. You can ask anyone in our class for help with a new word.
Common Core Alignment	Like most strategies, *Ask Someone to Define the Word for You* is applicable to all grade levels. Find the standard that aligns with your grade-level on our CAFE Menu/ CCSS Grade Level Matrix