



## A Lesson on The Sister, The Soldier by Susan McBride

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Sister Soldier

**Lesson Description:** This lesson is mildly difficulty reading and language arts-centered comprehensive exercise to give students practice in determining word meaning, setting, and emotions from the reading of the written text. Students are asked to give inference for basic information communicated in the text, "The Sister, The Soldier". By reading the text, students will be able to answer questions on word meaning and apply the correct meaning of the word used in other sentences. The student will write two short essays of 100 words or more to describe the setting and emotions that the author is trying to convey. They will also describe how they determined the setting and emotions from words and meaning used in the text. They will also justify their decisions for setting and emotions by stating what words and meaning from the reading helped them determine their choice.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### The Sister, The Soldier

by

**Content:** My sister is a soldier. I remember when she came home and told our mother that she was going into the army. My mother said, You're too young. It's too hard.?

My sister Darlene said, I'm 18. That's old enough to go. And if I go I'll be able to get a better job. Right now, all I can do is work part-time. I need a real job. I need a good one. This one isn't going anywhere.?

My mother cried. She said, There is a war. You could have to go there to fight.?

I said, Don't worry. They don't send girls to fight in wars. If it was me that would be different.?

Darlene said, Don't worry. I'm careful.?

But my mother stayed worried. My sister went to training camp. When she came back, she looked happy. I asked her what it was like.?

Well, we have to get up very early. I get up at 5:00 every morning. Then we do exercises. Then we drill a lot. You have to be on time. You have to follow all the directions. I like the people in my unit. They help each other out.?

My mother said, I'm proud of you. But I'm still worried.?

Don't worry, mom. If I do get sent to the war I'll be careful.?

My sister went to war. Her unit was sent to Iraq. I had no idea where that was. But I looked it up on a globe in the school library. Iraq is on the other side of the world.?

My sister bought us a computer before she left. She showed us how to use it to send email. I'm so glad she did that. We can send notes to her on it. She sends us back a note. She tells us about the weather and the people. Here's what she put in one note.?

It's hot here. We have to wear heavy clothes, though. They are to keep us safe. Most of the people here are very nice. And the soldiers are great friends. Don't worry. I'm being careful. See you in September.?

She would end every note that way see you in September. But then September came. Then she wrote to us, We have to stay longer. I'm not sure how soon I'll be back. But I'm being careful.?

My mother went on the email every day for the next week and didn't get a message. She was getting more and more worried. Then she got a note. I'm fine. They sent us on a trip. Sorry I couldn't email. Don't worry. I'm being careful.?

So it went on. And we waited. I worried, too. I would see news about the war on TV. It looked dangerous. Sometimes I would see that my mother was crying.?

October went by. Then November. Then it was December. My mother bought some presents for?

my sister. She mailed them to her. She said, I really wish Darlene could be here for Christmas. Every time the phone rang or someone knocked on the door, she hoped it might be Darlene coming home by surprise. But she didn't get her wish. So Christmas was kind of sad.?

Then on New Year's eve, the doorbell rang. We ran to open it. My mother said later she was a little afraid every time the doorbell rang that it might be someone to tell her bad news, that there was a problem with Darlene. But this was the opposite. This was the best news. It was Darlene!?

We'll have a really happy new year now.

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## Task 1: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why do you think Darlene means when she says multiple times to her family, do not worry, I will be careful?

When Darlene says multiple times to her family, dont worry, Ill be careful,?what do you think Darlene means when she tells her family not to worry because she will be careful??

2 - Why do you think Darlene says that they have to wear heavy clothes?

Why do you think Darlene says that they have to wear heavy clothes? ? She mentions that is hot but heavy clothes keep them safe.? How do you think that heavy clothes can keep Darlene safe?

3 - When Darlene says that she gets up at 5:00 every morning, why do you think she has to get up so early?

When Darlene says that she gets up at 5:00 every morning, why do you think she has to get up so early?

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## Task 2: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** Unit **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "unit" mean in this sentence, "I like the people in my unit. They help each other out??"

**A:** a piece of equipment that performs a specific function

**B:** a specified quantity for measuring

**C:** an individual group that is distinctive

**D:** a scientific term

**Question:** Choose the correct sentence below that uses the word "unit" correctly in the context of the reading.

**A:** The military has many units that are devoted to aviation

**B:** My brother is studying units of measurements in his Math class

**C:** The materials used for building a car are considered units

**D:** I like to keep units of craft materials neatly organized.

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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** All I can do is work part-time. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** When the author said Sister, "came home and told our mother that she was going into the army", what is the word in the context of the reading "home" mean?

**A:** A place where the sisters live with thier family

**B:** A place where the author is happy

**C:** The habitat of animals

**D:** A place where something is discovered

**Question:** When Sister, Darlene said she needed a better job. Right now, all I can do is work part-time. I need a real job. What does the word part-time refer to?

**A:** Something that is full

**B:** Half of a glass of water

**C:** Something you do all the time

**D:** Somthing you do only sometimes or half the time

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Please write a short essay of 100 words describing how the author feels about her sister, the soldier being away from home during the holidays.? Please be specific on what emotions you think that the author is trying to communicate about? her sister who is in the Army and is far away in Iraq.

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