



A Lesson on Our Lemons by Ariel Brangers

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, vocabulary, writing, comparing

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to allow students to use and practice their reading skills, writing skills, and learn new vocabulary while reading the story "Our Lemons." The lesson gives students a chance to critically read and understand the responsibilities that comes with harvesting lemons. The discussion questions allow students to dissect the story to understand main ideas in the story and relate the text to their own point of view. The lesson questions make the story more relative to students and allows for future critical analysis of stories to their own personal lives.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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.

Our Lemons

by

Content: I got up early. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than 20 lemon trees. My father has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the lemon trees stay green all year round. We have a big grove of lemon trees.

My father says California grows the most lemons of any place in the world. Every day we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that big, they are ready to pick.

They still are green when we pick them. We put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and Sunday to get the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town with the lemons.

Once my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it would get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it. My father said, pick them when they're green and small. They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green.

Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates. Then they take them to the train station. They ship them with oranges they grow, too. They send them to far away places. By the time they get to where they are going, they turn yellow. There are people who buy them all over the world.

My mother says that lemons are great but not by themselves. She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right. But when he goes to the store he comes back with apples. Those apples grow in Washington state.

My mother says our kitchen has foods from many places. She likes to drink tea from China. She puts our lemons into it and some sugar. She says the sugar comes from Brazil. So there are three countries in that one cup.

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Task 1: 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: Promised **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: When the author says "I promised I would help pick the lemons..." What does the word "promised" mean in the story?

- A: lied
- B: pledged
- C: already did
- D: denied

Question: Which sentence uses the word "promised" correctly in relationship to the story?

- A: We pinky promised.
 - B: He tidied up the room, promised himself an early night.
 - C: In its pre-showing, the producer promised record results.
 - D: I've been promised to him for years.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Turn **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "turn" mean in this sentence? "But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets."

- A: move
- B: change
- C: opportunity
- D: walk

Question: Which sentence uses the word "turn" in the same context as the story?

- A: I took a turn at the stop sign.
 - B: It was her turn to present.
 - C: Bananas are okay to eat when they turn brown.
 - D: Don't forget to turn in your homework.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Delivers **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the sentence "He delivers mail." What does "delivers" mean?

- A: brings
- B: states
- C: assists
- D: retrieves

Question: Which sentence uses the word "delivers" correctly in relationship to the story?

- A: The nurse delivers babies everyday.
 - B: The Governor delivers his address at 3 o'clock.
 - C: The radio host delivers the weather, too.
 - D: The florists delivers flowers door to door on Valentine's Day.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Right **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states "...the weather is not right." What does the word "right" mean in this sentence?

- A: acceptable
- B: correct
- C: position
- D: degree

Question: Choose the sentence that uses the word "right" in the same context as the story.

- A: I hope you're doing the right thing.
 - B: You know the right answer.
 - C: The car spun right off track.
 - D: We have the right to protest.
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Task 2: 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 - Picking lemons as a hobby

Do you think picking these lemons is a hobby for the author and their family? Explain your answer.

2 - Author's mother thinks lemons aren't great by themselves

Think about your own experiences with lemons. Explain why the mother thinks lemons are great but not alone.

3 - Three countries in one cup

Think about your own kitchen. Explain how it may be similar or different to the authors kitchen with food from many places.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write 2 paragraphs on the authors point of view and how their mornings may be different from your mornings. Use the story to support your answer. You might want to think about the responsibilities that come with 20 lemon trees.

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