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A Lesson on The Sister, The Soldier by Dejah Harris

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: The Sister, The Soldier

Lesson Description: For this lesson, students will be asked to read the passage "The Sister, The Soldier" and answer questions that are related to the story. The goal of this lesson is to increase comprehension of the author's message through studying vocabulary and closely analyzing the word choice in this passage. Students are expected to closely read the passage and take note of anything that may stand out to them. There is a mixture of vocabulary, short answer dependent questions as well as an analytical essay that they are expected to answer.

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.

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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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

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

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.3: Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

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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: 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: Different **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author believes that boys and girls go through different test's in the military, what does the word "different" mean in this sentence?

- A: similar
- B: individual
- C: not the same as
- D: related

Question: Which of the sentence below uses the word "different" in the same way as provided in the passage?

- A: My sister and I live in different states from each other
- B: The new kid in my class is acting kind of different.
- C: I like different food from my mom
- D: You and me are in different groups for P.E.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Training **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the military, they have to do a lot of training, as they prepare for war. What does the word "training" mean in this sentence?

- A: preparing
- B: instruct
- C: conditioning
- D: excersie

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "training" correctly?

- A: I wish I wasnt training so much this summer
- B: My mom is training our dog for the competition on Sunday.
- C: The kids were training as they walked to school
- D: Dad loves training and singing

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Some of the work they do in the military can be dangerous at times, what does the word "dangerous" mean in this sentence?

- A: scary
- B: bad
- C: hard
- D: could cause harm

Question: Which of the below sentences uses "dangerous" in the correct way?

- A: At night my room is dangerous
- B: Walking across busy traffic can be dangerous
- C: I love dangerous food
- D: My dog is very dangerous

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Opposite **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Getting good news of her sister being home from the military is the opposite of what her mother expected. What does the word "opposite" mean in this sentence?

- A: different
- B: same
- C: identical
- D: similar

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "opposite" correctly?

- A: Dessert is the opposite of cake
- B: We are such opposites, we love all of the same things
- C: My mom and I have opposite personalities.
- D: The store is full of opposite clothes to wear for my sister and I

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - New Year Surprise

Why was mother so scared to open the door on New Year's day when Darlene was knocking?

2 - Keeping in Contact

How did Darlene's sister stay in contact with her while she was away in Iraq?

3 - The military experience

What made Darlene's experience in the military so difficult? What challenges did she face while she was in Iraq??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: After reading this story do you think joining the military is scary and dangerous? Would you be scared if you had to do the things that Darlene had to do? What advice do you have for Darlene, to make it through her rough times in the military? You are to write and post here 500 words essay and make sure to provide specific examples.