



A Lesson on Changing Our Street by Hannah Shelby

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Change

Lesson Description: Students will learn new vocabulary and strengthen their reading skills.

They will discuss any hazards they have on their street and ways they can help fix the problems.

They will write an essay about a important accomplishment they achieved and how they achieved it.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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.

Changing Our Street

by

Content: There were many people driving down our street. They drove too fast, and my mother was worried. She thought they might hurt someone. She called the alderman's office. The alderman is the representative of your part of Chicago, a person who works in the government. Voters elect the aldermen, and anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem. My mother had called them before when there was a problem with trash collection.

The alderman came to look at our street. He said, Yes, I see the problem. But we need evidence so that I can persuade the office of Streets and Sanitation to come and fix it. I'll be following up. After he left we thought we would not get any help quickly, but we were wrong. The next day someone came to our street with a camera, and he stayed all day. It looked like he was taking photos of the street. I went to ask him what he was doing, and he explained that he had a device that was measuring the speed of cars. He said that he had already found ten cars speeding on our street. The next day a police officer came. She gave tickets to drivers who were speeding.

Then one week later workers came, and they installed a stop sign at the corner. Now cars would have to stop there. My mother felt relieved that this had happened. She said, See what one phone call can do? But the cars still were going too fast. They would drive fast and then stop quickly, so it still was dangerous. We did not expect that a police officer could stay there all day to give drivers tickets. We need to make another call, I said. This time I called the alderman's office.

The next week workers came again, and this time they came in a big truck. They drew lines on the street. Then they poured concrete where the lines were. They worked all day, and at the end of the day, we had a way to slow the cars down. We had speed bumps.

Someone invented speed bumps. When you drive on a street and get to a speed bump you have to slow down. If you don't slow down, you have a problem. Your car rocks up and down, and that can even knock some part off the car.

This story is part of our family's history, now. We believe that we are responsible for our street and that other people should be responsible, too. My mother got a change made with one phone call, and then I got more changes with another call. We have made our street a safer place because we took action.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: ?

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Q: 1 WordPhrase: Alderman **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "...anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem." What does the word "alderman" mean in this sentence?

A: The representative of your part of town.

B: A noble serving the king as chief officer in a district.

C: One that works especially in manual labor.

D: The top management level specializing in planning issues.

Question:

Which one of the sentences below uses the word "alderman" correctly?

A: The king called for his alderman to go visit every farmer in their shire.

B: The alderman enforced the street to be completed with the assistance of two deputuies.

C: The alderman collected money from each house for their taxes.

D: The chef called for the alderman to collect the dishes from the dirty table.

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Task 2: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on?two positive accomplishments that you have achieved. What did you learn about yourself from those experiences?

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Task 3: 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 - Are you responsible for your street?

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. Think about your street and any?problems that may endanger your neighborhood. Do you feel you are responsible to make your street a safer place?

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