



A Lesson on The Sister, The Soldier by Brittany Hardin

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Army, soldiers, sisters, family, military family, literature, language arts, ELA,

Lesson Description: For this lesson, students are to read the passage "The Sister, The Soldier" and answer questions related to the story. Questions are multiple choice, open-ended short answer, with one analytical essay. The goal of this lesson is to get students to comprehend the author's message and to understand key words throughout the passage. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills as they connect what they read and be able to put that into writing skills. After reading the text, student will be able to answer questions about word meaning and how to correctly use the word or phrase.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.3.4: 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.3.9: Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

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

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

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.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5a: Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps).

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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.

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Q: 1 WordPhrase: Home and Job **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When the author said, "I remember when she 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 for animals to live
- B:** A place that makes food
- C:** A place where the sisters live with their family
- D:** A place that keeps you covered with a roof

Question: Darlene says "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." What is a job?

- A:** A paid position for employment of a duty
- B:** Something you do sometimes
- C:** Volunteering
- D:** A fun activity

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Careful **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: ?Don?t worry, Mom. If I do get sent to the war zone, I'll be extremely careful.? What does the word "careful" mean?

- A:** Reckless
- B:** Foolish
- C:** Thoughtless
- D:** Attentive

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

- A:** She was careful to put on her shoes.
- B:** I was careful when I brought my dishes down the stairs.
- C:** My friend was careful to write his story.
- D:** She was careful when she took the last scoop of ice cream.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Recruits **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Training was challenging, we have to get up at 5:00 every morning, the work was demanding, we drilled a lot, but we learned skills. You have to be on time, and you have to follow all the directions, but they keep you occupied, so you don?t get bored. I like the other "recruits" in my platoon, we all supported each other in the exercises.? What does the word "recruits" mean in this sentence above?

- A:** Newly enlisted soldiers
- B:** Drivers
- C:** Experts
- D:** Professionals

Question: In what sentence below uses the word "recruit" correctly?

- A:** My family got to recruit some food at the store today.
- B:** "Can we recruit a new baby brother mom?"
- C:** They recruit the toughest players to help win the game.
- D:** Could you recruit your family to come over to my house later?

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Dangerous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: We waited and waited, and I worried, too. The news reports on the war on TV looked "dangerous", and my mother would cry when we saw those reports. What does the word "dangerous" in this sentence mean above?

- A:** Pleasant
- B:** Unsafe
- C:** Harmless
- D:** Secure

Question: Correctly select the sentence that uses the word "dangerous" correctly.

A: It was so dangerous swimming in the shallow end of the pool.

B: She was dangerous when she ate the food off the ground.

C: It's dangerous to drive slower than the speed limit.

D: She got into a car accident, driving through the dangerous intersection.

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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.?

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1 - A Letter to the Sister

Darlene was able to purchase a computer and they sent emails back and forth. If your sister was to leave for the army, what would you write in an email to her??

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2 - New Years

Why was the mother so scared to hear a knock at the door? Explain. Use clues from the text.

What feelings would you feel if you saw Darlene at the door after months had passed without hearing from her??

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3 - Fighting Age and Gender

In the passage, Darlene says I'm 18, that's old enough to go. What age do you think is appropriate to go to war at? Why??

Explain the disadvantages of going to war and the advantages of it.

They also talk about gender, do you think girls should go to war or just boys? Give three reasons why.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Please write a short 400 word essay on how you would feel as a mother or father, if your child was leaving for the military? Explain those feelings and relate to the mother in the passage. Would you be scared for your daughter? Would you want her to go??Also, write about the authors feelings about the sister, the soldier, being away for the holidays in Iraq. Use text from the passage and provide specific examples.

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