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A Lesson on A Better Community by Sophia Buschman

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Recylying, Trash, Plastic, Community

Lesson Description: This lesson is designed to help teach students critical thinking skills, reading comprehension skills, and language/vocabulary skills. The passage used to teach theses skills will focus on a community's use of a Recycling Center. At the beginning of the lesson the students will have ten minutes to read the passage on their own. Afterwards the teacher will reread the text (less than five minutes). Students will use contextual clues to learn the meanings of new vocabulary words on their own. The students will independently answer the discussion questions and reply to two different posts from other students. The writing activity will allow the student to reflect on personal experience to relate the text while using text evidence.

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.

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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.

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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.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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: Read the following passage silently. Once every student is done reading, the teacher will reread the passage aloud.

A Better Community by

Content: My daughter brought a note home. I looked at the note and smiled. So we will have a recycling center, I said.

She started to explain why it is important to recycle. I know, I said, but I don't have time. She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic. We would put plastic in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the Recycle Center. She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out.

It seemed like a good idea. But then the bag got full. In one week we had filled it with empty plastic bottles.

My daughter said we should look at what we use. We are using too much plastic. So we looked for ways to use less plastic.

I told my neighbor about this. She liked the idea. She started keeping her plastic in a bag. We all went together to the Recycle Center on the first Saturday. We brought our plastic.

When we got there, we saw many bags. People had brought lots of trash. They brought paper and metal, too. Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle, said my neighbor.

When we were walking back from the Recycle Center, I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had adopted the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center.

I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.

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: Recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author writes about her daughter starting to recycle, "She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic. We would put plastic in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the Recycle Center." What does the word "recycle" mean?

- A: to throw away
- B: to reuse
- C: to clean
- D: to light on fire

Question: Which sentence uses the word "recycle" correctly?

- A: We recycle plastic bottles to reduce trash.
- B: She recycled the paper by throwing it into the trash can.
- C: Recycling leads to more trash in the streets
- D: The trash can is where we put paper and plastic recycling.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author explains the importance of recycling, "She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out." What does "environment" mean?

- A: cars and planes
- B: people and their families
- C: trees, water, and the air
- D: house and buildings

Question: Which sentence correctly uses the word "environment"?

- A: The environment was made of cars.
- B: The family was the environment.
- C: The city's environment was full of lively houses.
- D: The forest and lakes were the environment.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: the author writes about how recycling has helped the city "...I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today." What does "litter" mean in this sentence?

- A: trash
- B: brand new
- C: reuse
- D: reduce

Question: Which sentence correctly uses "litter"?

- A: The plastic turned into litter when recycled.
- B: To reduce trash everyone should litter more.
- C: The student littered when she threw her paper on the floor.
- D: Litter is better for the planet.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: adopted **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author writes about students adopting a road, "My daughter said that another class had "adopted" the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center." What does the word "adopted" mean?

- A: To throw away
- B: To ignore
- C: To not care for
- D: To take care of

Question: Which sentence uses "adopted" correctly?

- A: The adopted clothes were dirty.
- B: The family adopted a dog from the shelter.
- C: The adopted road was forgotten.
- D: The cat adopted a trash can.

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 - Why we recycle

What does it mean to recycle and why is it important?

2 - How to lessen plastic waste

What is one way that the family could lessen their use of plastic bottles?

3 - What does the author mean?

What does the author mean when she says I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: What is the main idea of the passage? Why is it important to know if your community has a Recycling Center? Think of ways that your family could start recycling. What activity that your family participates in produces the most waste? Use personal examples and evidence from the text to support your answers.

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