



## A Lesson on Summer by Jessica Bryant

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Critical thinking, Vocabulary, Writing, Summer

**Lesson Description:** In this fourth grade lesson plan students will individually be reading "Summer", followed by a class discussion to further encourage critical thinking skills. Students will also answer vocabulary questions to strengthen their understanding in language and then finishing the lesson with a writing assignment.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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

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.4.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2d: Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

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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.

### Summer

by

**Content:** I had been looking forward to the summer all year. We would go to stay with my grandparents. They lived on a farm in Illinois. They had all kinds of things to do. We would get up early and milk the cows. Then we would feed the chickens. It was so different from living in the city. It is like making a trip between civilizations. Consider how different it is to live in different ways--the city and the farm, the rural and the urban, my brother said. He was going to college and liked to use big words like that.

The day came to go there. I was excited. So was my brother. My mother packed a lunch for us to eat along the way. Then we left. After about 3 hours we were halfway there.

But then it started to rain. The road is dangerous, my mother said. We could skid. It was hard to see where we were on the road because the rain was so heavy. This is much more than a little rain, my brother said. The forecast was for just light rain.

My mother took an exit ramp. We left the highway and stopped at a restaurant. Better safe than sorry, she said. I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.

We were waiting there for about an hour when my brother said, Lets eat lunch. We all thought that was a great idea, so we did.

Imagine long ago when pioneers lived here, my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then. They would have been so tired. They would have been hot and hungry. We have gone about 120 miles. And we are comfortable. We have air conditioning and restaurants.

There have been so many changes that make a difference to how people travel, my brother said. Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars.

But that is what we have when we are at the farm, Mother replied. That is how your grandparents live. They dont have any cell phones, and they just have that slow old truck.

Just then the rain stopped. We finished our lunch and then were back on the road. Then we drove a long while to get us to the farm.

When we arrived, everyone was glad to be at the end of this trip and at the beginning of a great summer. Now we will have a great summer, my mother said. I agreed. This would be another good time.

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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:** consider **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "Consider how different it is to live in different ways..."What does the word "consider" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To leave
- B:** To be forgetful
- C:** To think carefully about something
- D:** To look away

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

- A:** Always consider how your friend's feel.
  - B:** The dog is so pretty and consider.
  - C:** Don't consider on top of the couch or it will break.
  - D:** Please consider down the sidewalk.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** civilizations **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "It is like making a trip between civilizations." What does the word "civilizations" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To be very confused.
- B:** To act crazy.
- C:** Driving fast in a car.
- D:** Way of life in a particular area.

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

- A:** Bring all of the civilizations into the house.
  - B:** She went to visit other civilizations around the world.
  - C:** How many civilizations do you have?
  - D:** Bring me your civilizations.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** anticipate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "I will call them and tell them to anticipate a late arrival." What does "anticipate" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To feel sleepy.
- B:** To be lazy.
- C:** To expect or predict.
- D:** To be slow.

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

- A:** She did not anticipate the trip being so long.
  - B:** The teacher showed anticipate.
  - C:** I was so excited about the concert I couldn't anticipate it.
  - D:** We anticipate the holidays by giving presents.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** skid **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "We could skid." What does the word "skid" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To hide.
- B:** To slide.
- C:** To be scared.
- D:** To feel shy.

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

- A:** Skid your clothes when you get home from practice.
  - B:** Remember to skid while singing.
  - C:** The jet ski skid over the ice when it came to a stop.
  - D:** The window skid when the baseball hit it.
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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 - Why did the boy feel this way?

In the beginning of the story the boy says he was?looking forward to summer all year. Why did he feel this way?

### 2 - What is the difference?

The two brothers discuss the differences between a rural and urban area in the story. Explain what the differences are. Give specific details for your answers.

### 3 - Why does the mother say "Better safe than..."

Why does the mother warn?Better safe than sorry during their trip to visit family? Support your answer in detail from the story.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on the main idea of the story. Include information such as the main characters and setting. Use new vocabulary to show full understanding of the meaning. Make sure to provide specific examples for your answers.

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