



A Lesson on The Astronaut's Diary by Alyssa Dodge

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Astronaut Diary

Lesson Description: By using "The Astronaut's Diary", students will be able to identify the meaning of specific vocabulary, make inferences, and provide their own ideas in connection to the story and the purpose of the text.

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.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.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.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.RI.4.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

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.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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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 Astronaut's Diary

by

Content: We were exhausted from all the work. We slept in shifts. One of us had to be awake all the time. There was so much work to do.

Finally, we got to our destination. We had reached the space station. There, we would do more work, but we would have less pressure. We had so much to do every day on our ship. Now there would be more people to help us. We would be on a collaborative team. We would be able to share the work.

When we moved into the space station, I felt great. There was so much more space. We would have real beds to sleep in. We would have better food. They had a garden on the space station. They grew vegetables.

The six astronauts on the space station were happy to see us. They said, We have been waiting for you. We were glad to see them, too. We had been worried. We heard that one of them had been sick.

We asked how she was feeling. She said she was better now. It had been a cold. We were relieved. We could stop worrying now.

That first night on the space station was great. We had good food. We had a good dinner. Then we were going to sleep. But one of the astronauts said, We need to give you a job. Each person has to take turns staying awake. Here is the schedule. So I had a shift again.

I saw I was first. I would have to stay awake tonight. I was disappointed. I felt fatigued. I had been awake and working for 20 hours. But I knew it was my duty. So I sighed and said, See you in the morning.

I became an astronaut so that I could travel in space. Now I'm here. It is hard work. It's even more challenging than I expected.

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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: Fatigued **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author says, "I felt fatigued." What does the word "fatigued" mean in this sentence?

- A: The astronaut was angry that he had to stay awake.
- B: The astronaut was very tired since he had been awake for a long time.
- C: The astronaut was going to go to bed anyway.
- D: The astronaut wished he had not come to the space station.

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "fatigued" correctly?

- A: The nurse was fatigued after her long night at the hospital.
- B: Marvin was fatigued when he was not picked for the basketball team.
- C: The fatigued bird flew through the air, chirping happily.
- D: Camila felt fatigued when she discovered the hidden treasure.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Shift **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "We slept in shifts." What does the author mean by the word "shifts" in this sentence?

- A: The astronauts slept on comfy beds called "shifts".
- B: The astronauts moved a lot while they slept.
- C: The astronauts took turns sleeping.
- D: The astronauts slept in special astronaut sleepwear.

Question: Which sentence uses the word "shifts" in the same way that the author uses it in the story?

- A: Maria was so nervous, she was shifting in her chair.
- B: Lewis shifted through his closet to find his shoes.
- C: The kids were all scared when something shifted in the bushes.
- D: Mother was running late for her shift at work because she forgot her keys.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Collaborative **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "We would be on a collaborative team." What does the author mean by "collaborative"?

- A: The team was not good at their job.
- B: The team members were not astronauts.
- C: The team worked together.
- D: The team was so small that they needed more people.

Question: What sentence uses the word "collaborative" correctly?

- A: Lucas walked collaboratively through the hall so he wouldn't get in trouble.
- B: She had on a very collaborative jacket.
- C: Janet felt collaborative when her teacher gave her an A on the test.
- D: Our teacher told us to work collaboratively on the group assignment.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Destination **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Finally, we had reached our destination." What does the word "destination" mean in this sentence?

- A: Destination is the name of the space station.
- B: It was the author's destiny to become an astronaut.
- C: The astronauts were in space for a really long time.
- D: They had arrived at the place they were being sent to.

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

- A: After a long time in the car, our family arrived at our destination in the city.
- B: It was Lisa's hard work and destination that made her win the trophy.
- C: It was Michael's destination to become a doctor.
- D: Taylor felt destination for the ugly painting.

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 does the author say "It's even more challenging..."

Why does the author say that being an astronaut is more challenging than he expected? What was he expecting he would do as an astronaut?

2 - What does the author mean by, "One of us..."

In the story, the author says, One of us had to be awake all the time. Why would someone have to stay awake on the space station at all times? What would happen if they all slept at the same time?

3 - Why were the astronauts worried that...

Why does the author say, We could stop worrying now when she/he found out that the astronaut only had a cold? What was the author so worried about?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: At the end of the story, the author says that being an astronaut is more challenging than she/he expected. You are to write and post here a 500-word?essay discussing the challenges that come with working on a space station. Include three (3) specific examples from the text as well as two (2) examples?not seen in the text.

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