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# A Lesson on The Cloud

## by Madison Campbell

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour

**Lesson Keywords:** Little Cloud

**Lesson Description:** Students must read the passage, answer multiple choice questions, discussion questions and write a short story.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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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 Cloud

by

**Content:** One hot summer morning a little Cloud rose out of the sea and floated lightly and happily across the blue sky. Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields, while she herself floated on the morning breeze, hither and thither, without a care.

Oh, if I could only help the poor people down there! she thought. If I could but make their work easier, or give the hungry ones food or the thirsty a drink! And, as the day passed, and the Cloud became larger, this wish to do some thing for the people of earth was ever greater in her heart.

On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays. It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor. Sometimes they stood and looked up at the Cloud, as if they were praying, and saying, Ah, if you could help us!

I will help you; I will! said the Cloud. And she began to sink softly down toward the earth.

But suddenly, as she floated down, she remembered something that had been told to her when she was a tiny Cloud-child, in the lap of Mother Ocean: it had been whispered that if the Clouds go too near the earth, they die. When she remembered this, she held herself from sinking, and swayed here and there on the breeze, thinking, thinking. At last, she stood quite still, and spoke boldly and proudly. She said, Men of earth, I will help you, come what may!

The thought made her suddenly marvelously big, strong, and powerful. Never had she dreamed that she could be so big. Like a mighty angel of blessing, she stood above the earth, and lifted her head and spread her wings far over the fields and woods. She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight; the trees and the grasses bowed before her; yet all the earth-creatures felt that she meant them well.

Yes, I will help you, cried the Cloud once more. I will give my life for you!

As she said the words a wonderful light glowed from her heart, the sound of thunder rolled through the sky, and a love greater than words can tell filled the Cloud; down, down, close to the earth she swept, and gave up her life in a blessed, healing shower of rain.

That rain was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered. Over the whole countryside, as far as the rain fell, a lovely rainbow crossed the sky.

Soon that, too, was gone. But long, long afterward the men and animals the Cloud saved kept her blessing in their hearts. They remembered it every time they saw a rainbow.

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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:** Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "Far below the earth: brown, dry and desolate, from drought." What does the word "Desolate" mean in this sentence?

- A: deserted
- B: joyful
- C: a desert
- D: friendly

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

- A: I was very desolate about our town.
- B: After the hurricane came, it left our beautiful town into a desolate landscape.
- C: The desolate widow was happy about what happened.
- D: I felt desolate once my whole family came in town.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** And she began to sink softly down toward the earth **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "And she began to sink softly down toward the earth." What does the word "Sink" mean in this sentence?

- A: for washing hands
- B: an animal
- C: to lower
- D: joyful

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

- A: I washed my hands in the sink after eating ribs.
- B: I have a pet sink at home.
- C: When the teacher pronounced her name wrong, she began to sink in her chair.
- D: I was sink about seeing my favorite band play this weekend.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** One hot summer morning a little cloud rose out of the sea. **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In our story, the author says "One hot summer morning a little cloud rose out of the sea." What does the word "Rose" mean in this sentence?

- A: lifted
- B: a flower
- C: an animal
- D: joyfully

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

- A: With a full nights sleep, she rose out of bed happy and ready to start her day.
- B: I was very rose when I got my new bike.
- C: My pet rose loves to run around the backyard.
- D: He rose as he got in bed.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet the were obliged to go on with their work.

**WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In our story, the author says "It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet the were obliged to go on with their work." What does the word "Obliged" mean in this sentence?

- A: morally bound to an action or course of action.
- B: against
- C: refused
- D: happy

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

- A: I was so obliged about my new dog.
- B: I obliged my teacher when she came in.
- C: I was so confused and obliged when a dog showed up to class.
- D: Even though it was raining, we were obliged to go to work still.

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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 - Clouds

Explain why you believe the author chose to write the story based on a cloud.

### 2 - Goals

The little cloud had a goal to save the people, how did she save them and how did she feel about it?

### 3 - Your Goals

The little cloud had a goal that she achieved for the people. What are some of your goals or what are you passionate about?

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### Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** The little cloud in this story is inspiring for the love and care she shared for the people. Like this little cloud, has someone inspired you or have you heard of someone like an athlete or singer who inspires?you. You are to write a well thought out and detailed story explaining someone who you know or have heard of that has inspired you. To finish off the story, you must write how their inspiration has changed you.?

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