



A Lesson on A Better Community by Ashley Lekhram

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Recycling, Environment, Litter, Community

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is for students to learn the importance of recycling and how they can help their community make changes. By reading and rereading the passage, students will gain an understanding of new vocabulary words and answer critical questions to determine and comprehend the author's purpose for writing the passage. By the end of the lesson, students will have a greater understanding of recycling and what they can do to recycle at home and in their community.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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.

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.

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: filled **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in the story says "When we were walking back from the Recycle Center, I saw a change". What does the word "change" mean in this sentence?

- A: to rest
- B: to stay the same
- C: to make or become different
- D: to remain

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "change" correctly?

- A: I wanted to change the shirt I was wearing.
- B: My daughter will pay for her ice cream with change.
- C: I wanted to buy the hat but I only had change.
- D: My sister was told to change in her seat.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: adopted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The mother in the story wrote that "My daughter said that another class "adopted" the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center. What does the word "adopted" mean in this sentence?

- A: to leave
- B: to throw away
- C: to deny
- D: to take up or use

Question: Which sentence below provides the correct meaning of the word "adopted"?

- A: My teacher adopted me to use a calculator during the test.
- B: My friend adopted me during recess today and I was alone.
- C: My dad adopted his old screw driver in the trash.
- D: My mom and I adopted a stray dog.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the passage, the author says that "she started to explain why it is important to recycle", what does the word "recycle" mean in this sentence?

- A: to reuse
- B: to waste
- C: to lose
- D: to win

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

- A: My mom told me to recycle the food I didn't want.
- B: Throw your tray in the garbage can to recycle it.
- C: In class today, we learned that we should always recycle our bottles, cans, and paper.
- D: My sister told me to put water in the ice cube tray to recycle it.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: energy **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states that "she said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make". What does the word "energy" in this sentence mean?

- A: force or power
- B: weakness
- C: inability
- D: helplessness

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "energy" correctly?

- A: I had energy so I stayed in bed all day.
- B: The worker had a lot of energy to move and stack the heavy boxes.
- C: The girl's energy to read made school difficult for her.
- D: The boy had a feeling of energy so he started crying.

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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 - Plastic

In the passage, the mother's daughter says it is important to recycle, especially plastic. Why is it important to recycle? What are some ways that we can recycle and what should we recycle?

2 - A lot of changes

At the end of the passage, the mother says it is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes, what do you think she meant by this? What changes is she mentioning and what changes could we make in our community?

3 - Author's purpose

After reading through this passage, what do you think is the author's purpose? Was the author trying to entertain, inform, or persuade readers? Explain why you chose your answer.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In your writing activity, you are to write a three paragraph essay on why recycling is important for our environment?and what you can do to encourage your family, friends, and community to recycle. Be sure to provide specific examples and include some of our vocabulary words we learned in your essay.

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