



A Lesson on The Astronaut's Diary by Alicia Russell

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Space, Astronauts, Comprehension, Critical Thinking, Discussion, Writing

Lesson Description: Students will read the short story called "The Astronaut Diary". To show comprehension, they will answer questions with specific vocabulary words, followed by a class discussion of three questions, and ending with a written comparative response.

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.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.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1d: Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

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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: The author states, "I felt fatigued." What does fatigued mean?

- A: Annoyed
- B: Tired
- C: Sad
- D: Angry

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

- A: After my soccer game, I was fatigued.
 - B: After the party, the house was fatigued.
 - C: My brother was fatigued with me.
 - D: I am fatigued when I don't get to play outside for recess.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Collaborative **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Using the supporting text, what does "We would be on a collaborative team." mean?

- A: A team that is fun.
- B: A team that makes one person do all the work.
- C: A team that works together.
- D: A team that is nice.

Question: Which sentence uses the word collaborative correctly?

- A: It is nice to work as a collaborative team and share the work.
 - B: I heard the music on the collaborative radio.
 - C: I finished this collaborative project by myself.
 - D: I am a collaborative person.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Relieved **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says, "We were relieved". What does relieved mean?

- A: No longer feeling worry.
- B: Feeling more worried.
- C: No longer feeling happy.
- D: Feeling bored.

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "relieved" correctly.

- A: That book is sad, it makes me relieved.
 - B: I felt relieved when we got good news.
 - C: I was very worried and it made me more relieved.
 - D: There is so much to do, it makes me relieved.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Destination **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the author says, "Finally, we got to our destination." What does the word destination mean?

- A: The name of the space station.
- B: The kind of bed they were sleeping in.
- C: The vegetables they grew.
- D: The place they were traveling to.

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

- A: It was a long day of driving but we finally got to our destination.
 - B: I enjoy eating destination.
 - C: My destination was very comfortable.
 - D: The destination was hard to grow.
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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 - Teamwork

The astronaut states there will be more work to do, but they will work as a team. What type of work do you think needs to be done on the space ship?

2 - Disappointment

When the astronaut finds out they have to take the night shift, they state that they are very disappointed. Explain a time when you had to do something you didn't want to and were disappointed.

3 - Astronaut

The author says, 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. What do astronauts have to do that is hard work?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 250 word response comparing what working in space would be like compared to working on Earth. Make sure to provide specific examples.

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