



A Lesson on A Better Community by Katherine Mackeeman

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Community, recycling, plastic, environment

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to practice their reading comprehension and writing skills while enforcing the importance of environmentally sustainable practices through the passage. The teacher will read the story aloud to the class once, then students will have the opportunity to read and re-read the passage themselves in order to successfully understand the passage and apply it to the vocabulary questions and discussion activity. The students will be analyzing the underlying themes of the passage such as the benefits of working together and how a little effort can go a long way.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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.3.1c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3c: Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

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: Recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of the passage states "She started to explain why it is important to recycle.?I know,? I said, but I don?t have time." What does the word "recycle" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To store trash somewhere hidden
- B:** To throw trash away
- C:** To ride a bicycle again
- D:** To save trash so that it can be made into something new

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

- A:** As a way to recycle, the woman rode her bicycle twice around the block.
- B:** Susie kept her empty water bottle so she could recycle it when she got home.
- C:** I recycle my trash by storing it in my closet.
- D:** The children recycle when they throw their lunches away.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Energy **WordPhraseTier:** 2

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

- A:** Power to do something
- B:** A food you eat
- C:** Something you buy
- D:** A type of material

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

- A:** My shirt is made out of energy.
- B:** Children use a lot of energy when running around playing tag.
- C:** I eat energy for breakfast.
- D:** David some bought energy at the store

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the passage states "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. " What does the word "environment" mean in this sentence?

- A:** The area where plastic is made
- B:** The place where someone buys groceries
- C:** The area where something or someone lives
- D:** The place where someone goes to recycle

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

- A:** I take my empty cans to the environment so they can be recycled.
- B:** A shark's environment is the ocean.
- C:** People who make plastic work at an environment.
- D:** Jasmine ran out of carrots, so she went to the environment to buy more.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of the passage states "Most days I see trash in the street. People litter." What does the word "litter" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To throw trash away where it doesn't belong
- B:** To walk across the street
- C:** To pick up trash
- D:** To ignore the trash you see

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "litter" correctly?

- A:** I saw someone litter when they threw their trash out of their car window.
- B:** Crystal likes to litter to keep the environment clean.
- C:** Brandon litters when he sees trash, but is too lazy to pick it up.
- D:** The man litters to the other side of the street while taking his dog on a walk.

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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 - Recycling importance

The author states She started to explain why it is important to recycle. Using complete sentences, give two reasons as to why you think it is important to recycle.

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2 - Working together

The author states People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had adopted the street. What do you think the author means by another class adopted the street, and why do you think working together can be helpful in certain situations?
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3 - Changes

The author states It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Make sure to provide why you agree or disagree in your answer.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The passage emphasizes the importance of recycling and keeping our environment clean. In the space below write a 100 word minimum essay on the things that you could do to reduce the amount of trash you throw away. Make sure to describe at least 2 examples of what you would do and list the steps you would take to complete those examples in real life.?

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