



Military Siblings by Melanie Rivera

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Military, family, war, siblings, main theme, opinions.

Lesson Description: This lesson is to dig deeper into the emotions the author was trying to convey and understand the reason they wrote this small passage. They will learn to express their opinions, using the passage and their own thoughts to explain.

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.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.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).

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 Sister, The Soldier

by

Content: My sister is a soldier. I remember when she came home and told our mother that she was going into the army. My mother said, You're too young. It's too hard.

My sister Darlene said, I'm 18. That's old enough to go. And if I go I'll be able to get a better job. Right now, all I can do is work part-time. I need a real job. I need a good one. This one isn't going anywhere.

My mother cried. She said, There is a war. You could have to go there to fight.

I said, Don't worry. They don't send girls to fight in wars. If it was me that would be different.

Darlene said, Don't worry. I'm careful.

But my mother stayed worried. My sister went to training camp. When she came back, she looked happy. I asked her what it was like.

Well, we have to get up very early. I get up at 5:00 every morning. Then we do exercises. Then we drill a lot. You have to be on time. You have to follow all the directions. I like the people in my unit. They help each other out.

My mother said, I'm proud of you. But I'm still worried.

Don't worry, mom. If I do get sent to the war I'll be careful.

My sister went to war. Her unit was sent to Iraq. I had no idea where that was. But I looked it up on a globe in the school library. Iraq is on the other side of the world.

My sister bought us a computer before she left. She showed us how to use it to send email. I'm so glad she did that. We can send notes to her on it. She sends us back a note. She tells us about the weather and the people. Here's what she put in one note.

It's hot here. We have to wear heavy clothes, though. They are to keep us safe. Most of the people here are very nice. And the soldiers are great friends. Don't worry. I'm being careful. See you in September.

She would end every note that way see you in September. But then September came. Then she wrote to us, We have to stay longer. I'm not sure how soon I'll be back. But I'm being careful.

My mother went on the email every day for the next week and didn't get a message. She was getting more and more worried. Then she got a note. I'm fine. They sent us on a trip. Sorry I couldn't email. Don't worry. I'm being careful.

So it went on. And we waited. I worried, too. I would see news about the war on TV. It looked dangerous. Sometimes I would see that my mother was crying.

October went by. Then November. Then it was December. My mother bought some presents for?

my sister. She mailed them to her. She said, I really wish Darlene could be here for Christmas. Every time the phone rang or someone knocked on the door, she hoped it might be Darlene coming home by surprise. But she didn't get her wish. So Christmas was kind of sad.

Then on New Year's eve, the doorbell rang. We ran to open it. My mother said later she was a little afraid every time the doorbell rang that it might be someone to tell her bad news, that there was a problem with Darlene. But this was the opposite. This was the best news. It was Darlene!

We'll have a really happy new year now.

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: Drill **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in the story says "Well, we have to get up very early. I get up at 5:00 every morning. Then we do exercises. Then we drill a lot. You have to be on time. You have to follow all the directions. I like the people in my unit. They help each other out." What does the word "drill" refer to?

- A: Power tool
- B: Formation walk
- C: Military lesson
- D: Repeated exercise

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

- A: The instructor was vigorously drilling the curriculum into our heads.
- B: When my bunkmate broke the bed, she had to drill the nails back in to fix it.
- C: We had a fire drill after lunch today, we had to evacuate the building and stand outside until we got an
- D: After our breakfast we had to run into formation for drill practice until we got it perfect.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Unit **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "I like the people in my unit. They help each other out." What does the word "unit" mean in this sentence?

- A: Military group of people
- B: Form of measurement
- C: A specified function for a device
- D: A large mass

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

- A: That's an energy unit for the house.
- B: My unit won the drill competition.
- C: We need to find the unit of measurement for the problem.
- D: That is one massive unit of a man.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Worried **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "My mother said, 'I'm proud of you. But I'm still worried.'" What does "worried" mean in this sentence?

- A: Scared
- B: Calm
- C: Excited
- D: Confused

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

- A: My dog was worrying one her treat.
- B: My mom was so worried that I passed my test.
- C: I'm worried I failed the test.
- D: When nervous, I worry with a string.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Exercise **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: I get up at 5:00 every morning. Then we do exercises. What does the word "exercise" mean in this sentence?

- A: Practicing a skill
- B: Applying a right
- C: Take over in thoughts
- D: Physical activity

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

- A: The teacher gave us four exercises for the homework.
- B: We went to the gym to exercise.
- C: My mom likes to exercise her ability to go to church.
- D: The sad memories exercised his thoughts.

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 - Do you think the mom had a reason to worry about her daughter?

Yes, she has every right to be worried. Joining any branch of the military is scary because the jobs are dangerous and unpredictable. As mentioned in the story they bring up how there can be a possible war and how she'd be forced out to help fight. When her daughter got deployed on a job and couldn't keep contact with her mother it causes another sense of worry because that means something could've happened to her daughter.

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2 - Why do you think they have to wear heavy clothes in Iraq?

You would think because it's hot there that they would wear something light and easy to breathe in, however the weather there is much different than we expect. There's sand storms and they need to make sure they're protected from any unexpected threat. In the story she mentions how the heavy clothes keep her safe, from this we can infer that she's wearing a bulletproof vest and carrying supplies that she would need. The clothes can probably also protect her skin from the sun and any other outside factors like bug bites or rashes.

3 - In the story they mention how the sister has a unit in the army, what do you think the unit is for?

A unit in the military is a group of people that work together under one leader. They do everything together, wake up, clean, eat, exercise, and go on missions together. They even get punished as a team. A unit is to make sure no one is alone while on missions or even in their own barracks. The unit collabs and work together to get a job done.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on how you think the writer feels about their sister joining the military. Make sure to provide evidence and examples from the story to support your answer.

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