



A Lesson on Our Lemons by Michelle Amirova

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, comprehension, writing, vocabulary

Lesson Description: Students will independently read the story "Our Lemons." After they are finished, the teacher will read aloud the story to the class. If there are any questions they will be addressed here. Students will then go on to independently answer the vocabulary questions, referring back to the text as needed. They will also need to identify the vocabulary word used correctly in a sentence. The teacher will circulate the room to provide help & feedback. The students will then go on to answer three questions about their opinions/ their personal experiences related to the story. They are to refer back to the text as needed while also drawing on their personal experiences. The lesson ends with a writing activity where students will showcase their writing abilities and again refer to the text as needed as well as providing details to support their answer and share their own perspective.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

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

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.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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.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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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.

Our Lemons

by

Content: I got up early. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than 20 lemon trees. My father has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the lemon trees stay green all year round. We have a big grove of lemon trees.

My father says California grows the most lemons of any place in the world. Every day we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that big, they are ready to pick.

They still are green when we pick them. We put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and Sunday to get the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town with the lemons.

Once my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it would get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it. My father said, pick them when they're green and small. They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green.

Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates. Then they take them to the train station. They ship them with oranges they grow, too. They send them to far away places. By the time they get to where they are going, they turn yellow. There are people who buy them all over the world.

My mother says that lemons are great but not by themselves. She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right. But when he goes to the store he comes back with apples. Those apples grow in Washington state.

My mother says our kitchen has foods from many places. She likes to drink tea from China. She puts our lemons into it and some sugar. She says the sugar comes from Brazil. So there are three countries in that one cup.

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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: Grove **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "grove" mean in this sentence, "We have a big grove of lemon trees"?

- A: A nest
- B: A group of trees
- C: A pool
- D: A basket

Question: Which of these sentences uses the word "grove" correctly?

- A: I saw a big grove in the sky.
 - B: The grove is under water.
 - C: A grove is a new type of dance.
 - D: There was a grove of apple trees down the street.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Crates **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Workers pick them and put them into crates." What does the word "crates" mean in this sentence?

- A: Ball
- B: A writing tool
- C: Box
- D: Tree

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "crates" correctly?

- A: We were moving so all our stuff was packed in crates.
 - B: I wore crates to the beach.
 - C: The dog had crates for dinner.
 - D: Crates are very loud.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Pick **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school." What does the word "pick" mean in this sentence?

- A: To collect
- B: To eat
- C: To throw
- D: To hide

Question: Which of the sentences uses the word "pick" correctly?

- A: I pick my nose
 - B: I pick a new toy to play with
 - C: The pick is purple
 - D: I went to pick an apple off the tree
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Delivers **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does "delivers" mean in this sentence, "He works at the post office. He delivers mail"?

- A: To sleep
- B: To bring
- C: To eat
- D: To play

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

- A: The sky delivers rain
 - B: The girl delivers a good song
 - C: The boy delivers the newspaper
 - D: The cat delivers her dinner
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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 - Helping Hands

The author says he helps his family to pick lemons to sell and make money. In your family, what are some ways you help?

2 - Pick When Green

The author says to pick lemons and other citrus fruit when they are green. Think about the fruit you eat what color it is. What does it mean when a fruit is still green? Would you eat it? What do you think causes a fruit to change color? Explain your answer.?

3 - World Wide Foods

The author says his mom has foods from many different countries. Even in one cup of tea he says there is food from three countries. Think about the food you eat and where you think it's from. Describe some of your favorite foods and whether you think some are from different countries.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In 2-3 paragraphs, think about a promise you've made to your friends or family or when someone made a promise to you. Think about the authors promise to help his family pick lemons. Write about a time when?you made a promise to someone or someone made a promise to you. Explain the situation in detail.?

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