



## A Lesson on My Painting by Sara Grindey

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 15 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing, painting

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this assignment is for students to be able to learn and analyze the story about a young boy moving to America. They are supposed to use context clues and details to try and figure out the meaning of vocabulary words used in the story. By reading the story a couple of times and paying attention to close details and understanding it, students will answer questions in a discussion forum and also be able to summarize important key ideas in 500 words.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.

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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.

### My Painting

by

**Content:** I wanted to show people how I felt about my new country. My family had moved here 5 years ago when I was just 7 years old. When we came I did not know any English.

Everything was new and I was surprised every day. I had lived in a remote village far from the city. Now I was living in a city where there were so many people.

We would take the elevated train downtown. There we saw buildings that noted architects had designed. These architects were so famous that people all over the world knew their names. But I had never heard of them before. I looked up and was astonished at how high the buildings were.

I went to a school that was bigger than my whole village. More than 1,000 students go to the school. I remember my first day. The principal was friendly. So was the teacher. But I was mystified. I could not understand what the teacher and students were saying. Then another student came up to me during lunch. She said hello in Russian. I was so glad.

The teacher asked her to sit next to me for the rest of the school year and help me understand what they were saying.

She was my official translator. But I wanted to learn English. So every day after school we would go to my home. She would help me learn

English. To reciprocate, my mother would cook her family dinner. Once a week they would come to dinner. We would try hard to learn English, so instead of Russian everyone would talk in English.

Now I have learned English, and I have learned a lot about the United States. I will put some symbols in my painting that show how I feel about this land. It is a land of helpful people. It is a land of many heritages. It is a land of collaboration. People here work together to help each other make progress. I'm thinking of putting a flag on the background and then putting people holding hands in the foreground. I'll make a sketch first and then will paint it.

Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay. First you think of the idea you want to express. Then you think of ways to communicate that idea. I think my painting will be a great way to tell people how I feel about my new homeland.

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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:** Remote Village **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the passage, the author states "I had lived in a remote village far from the city". What does the word "remote village" mean in this sentence?

- A: A group of house and living that is distant from other cities or towns
- B: Houses or apartments near the water
- C: Big cities
- D: A type of community where people live in similar house

**Question:** Which of the sentences used the word "remote village" correctly?

- A: I lived in a remote village growing up where there weren't many towns or cities nearby and I was far away from most things.
- B: My friend says she lives in a remote village since her house is on the water.
- C: My cousins live in a remote village that is only five minutes away from the downtown of their city.
- D: Since she moved to the city, she now lives in a remote village.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Astonished **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says "I looked up and was astonished at how high the buildings were". What does the word "astonished" mean in this sentence?

- A: Mad
- B: Dirty
- C: Disappointed
- D: Surprised and amazed

**Question:** Which of the sentences below uses the word "astonished" correctly?

- A: My toothbrush astonished when I went to look for it.
- B: I couldn't find out how to do my math homework and it was making me feel astonished.
- C: I was astonished when I saw the final decorations for my Birthday party.
- D: My sister felt astonished in herself when she didn't turn in her homework in time

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Heritage **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the passage, the author states "It is a land of helpful people. It is a land of many heritages. It is a land of collaboration". What does the word "heritages" mean in this sentence?

- A: Feelings people have about each other
- B: Gender
- C: Passing down of characteristics from generation to generation in a culture
- D: Silbings

**Question:** Which of the sentences below uses the word "heritage" correctly?

- A: My friend used his heritage to help him drive to school today
- B: I expressed my heritage to my classmate after he was being mean to me.
- C: My brother and I's heritage's come from my father and mother.
- D: My heritage is female.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Express **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says "First you think of the idea you want to express. Then you think of ways to communicate that idea". What does the word "express" mean in this sentence?

- A: To show
- B: Listening to someone
- C: Drawing something
- D: Fast

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

- A: My dog felt expressed today from running around so much
- B: I shopped at express today
- C: I drove in the express lane to get there quickly
- D: My mom expressed to me about how she thinks I should start putting my own dishes away

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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 - Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay

In the story, the author says Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay .Explain and give an example of how writing and painting can be similar.

### 2 - Living in America

After the author moved to America, what would you say his opinion of America is?

### 3 - Living in a city

How was living in a city different than the author's old life living in a remote village?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words?on?summarizing the author's English language learning process and life at his new school. I also want you to write about what you would think and what youd do if you had to move to a new country and learn a new language. Make sure to provide specific examples.

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