



A Lesson on My Painting by Janson Gunn

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, My Painting

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to provide students the chance to use their reading and writing skills learned while reading the passage. After reading the passage, the students will read the story again when answering discussion questions about the story. The students will have writing activity where they learn how much they took in from the passage. They will gain a new understanding of vocabulary words after reading the text.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

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.

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 **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I had lived in a remote village far from the city." What does the word "remote" mean in this sentence?

- A: distant
- B: close
- C: central
- D: near

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

- A: He does not have a remote idea on what is happening.
 - B: John lost the remote to the television.
 - C: My next door neighbor and I live in a remote town faraway from friends.
 - D: My family did not have a remote connection that my sister was pregnant.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Noted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "There we saw buildings that noted architects had designs". What does the word "noted" mean in this sentence?

- A: unknown
- B: famous
- C: obscure
- D: unheard of

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

- A: Let it be noted today I am going to church.
 - B: In class I noted the important information from the topic.
 - C: My parents noted when I was leaving for the airport.
 - D: I am going to the Dali museum to see paintings from the noted artists.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Reciprocate **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author writes, "To reciprocate, my mother would cook her family dinner." What does the word "reciprocate" mean in this sentence?

- A: forget
- B: overlook
- C: repay
- D: neglect

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

- A: Sara got me a gift so to reciprocate I got her a beautiful card.
 - B: James did not reciprocate by not feeding the dogs.
 - C: John wanted to reciprocate by not doing anything.
 - D: The doctor wanted to reciprocate the ill patient by forgetting to give the medications.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Astonished **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: unimpressed
- B: amazed
- C: uninterested
- D: not surprised

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

- A: My mom was astonished that the amusement park closed due to over capacity of the park.
 - B: My brother knew he was going to be fired at work but was not astonished.
 - C: I was astonished when Emma had her blanket while she was sick.
 - D: The kids were not astonished when the dog was doing tricks.
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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 - Purpose of the passage My Painting

What is the author's purpose of the passage My Painting?

2 - But I was mystified.

In the third paragraph, the child says But I was mystified. Explain why the child was mystified from the context of the reading.

3 - Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay

The author from the reading says, Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay. Using examples from the text, explain how is making a painting similar to writing an essay.

4 - How I feel about my new homeland

In the last paragraph the author writes, I think my painting will be a great way to tell people how I feel about my new homeland.? Explain how the child feels about living in the new homeland using context clues from the passage.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing assignment, compare and contrast the how your school is different to the school of the child from the reading.? Also, include how you would feel if you had to move to a new country.? The post should be 2-3 paragraphs (minimum of 300 words) and make sure to provide specific examples from the story.

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