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A Lesson on The Cloud by Brandi Liedtka

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: http://lessonfarm.com/lesson_edit.php?id=1290

Lesson Description: Students should appropriately match the vocabulary terms used in the text with their correct meanings. Also they will complete a question and short answer sections that helps them reflect on what they just read. At the end of the lesson students will write a 500 word essay to reflect and use their knowledge on the text that they just read.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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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.

The Cloud

by

Content: One hot summer morning a little Cloud rose out of the sea and floated lightly and happily across the blue sky. Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields, while she herself floated on the morning breeze, hither and thither, without a care.

Oh, if I could only help the poor people down there! she thought. If I could but make their work easier, or give the hungry ones food or the thirsty a drink! And, as the day passed, and the Cloud became larger, this wish to do something for the people of earth was ever greater in her heart.

On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays. It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor. Sometimes they stood and looked up at the Cloud, as if they were praying, and saying, Ah, if you could help us!

I will help you; I will! said the Cloud. And she began to sink softly down toward the earth.

But suddenly, as she floated down, she remembered something that had been told to her when she was a tiny Cloud-child, in the lap of Mother Ocean: it had been whispered that if the Clouds go too near the earth, they die. When she remembered this, she held herself from sinking, and swayed here and there on the breeze, thinking, thinking. At last, she stood quite still, and spoke boldly and proudly. She said, Men of earth, I will help you, come what may!

The thought made her suddenly marvelously big, strong, and powerful. Never had she dreamed that she could be so big. Like a mighty angel of blessing, she stood above the earth, and lifted her head and spread her wings far over the fields and woods. She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight; the trees and the grasses bowed

before her; yet all the earth-creatures felt that she meant them well.

Yes, I will help you, cried the Cloud once more. I will give my life for you!

As she said the words a wonderful light glowed from her heart, the sound of thunder rolled through the sky, and a love greater than words can tell filled the Cloud; down, down, close to the earth she swept, and gave up her life in a blessed, healing shower of rain.

That rain was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered. Over the whole countryside, as far as the rain fell, a lovely rainbow crossed the sky.

Soon that, too, was gone. But long, long afterward the men and animals the Cloud saved kept her blessing in their hearts. They remembered it every time they saw a rainbow.

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: desolate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought." What does the word "desolate" mean according to this sentence?

- A: full
- B: empty
- C: warm
- D: joyful

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

- A: The pool was desolate of people. There were no people in sight.
- B: The beach was desolate of people! All of my friends were there too.
- C: The land around our house was desolate. Flowers bloomed all year round and the trees were full of leaves.
- D: Can we go to the park and desolate?

Q: 2 WordPhrase: fiercely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays." What does the word "fiercely" mean?

- A: softly
- B: joyfully
- C: quietly
- D: harshly

Question: Which sentence better used the word "fiercely" correctly?

- A: The lion roared fiercely and full of anger
- B: The wind blew so fiercely that everyone wanted to be outside and enjoy the weather
- C: My mom always tells me to smile in my photos and look at the camera fiercely
- D: The kitten purred fiercely

Q: 3 WordPhrase: marvelously **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "The thought made her suddenly marvelously big, strong, and powerful." What does the word "marvelously" mean?

- A: amazingly
- B: ordinarily
- C: not
- D: grew

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

- A: The cookies came out marvelously. They were burnt and hard as a rock
- B: My dog always plays with his toy and barks at me marvelously
- C: The pancakes my mom made came out marvelously
- D: Why don't we go to the park? Mom can stay home and marvelously wait for the stove repair man

Q: 4 WordPhrase: swayed **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "When she remembered this, she held herself from sinking, and swayed here and there on the breeze, thinking, thinking." What does the word "swayed" mean?

- A: stayed
- B: moved quickly
- C: ran
- D: moved slowly

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

- A: My dog swayed around the park
- B: The birds swayed through the sky. Zipping around playing with each other
- C: The squirrel swayed still. It didn't want to be seen by the hawk
- D: The lady swayed gently back and forth to the music

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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 - Why were the people so upset?

In the third paragraph the cloud is observing the people down below. A person says Ah, if you could help us! Why did the person say this?

2 - What did the cloud do to make the people happy?

That?was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered. What did the cloud do to make the people happy and cheer?

3 - Why would the summer time be hard on the crops?

Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields, while she herself floated on the morning breeze, hither and thither, without a care. Why was the land brown, dry, and desolate from drought at this time of year?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 500 word essay on how the cloud helped the crop farmers. Make sure to provide specific examples.

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