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## A Lesson on Our Lemons by Vanessa Tuliau

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** geography, botony

**Lesson Description:** Students are to start by reading the passage on lemons and coming to understand the story. Once they comprehend it they are to go on and answer 8 multiple questions on 4 vocabulary words within the short story - 2 questions per word. After the multiple choice questions they will participate in discussions on 3 different threads concerning the story. Finally, students will answer a question asking whether or not they believe it is important to know where your food comes from, for example lemons. This will be a 500 words essay. They will have 2 hours.

### 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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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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.

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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:** citrus **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story the author says, "They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green". What does the word "citrus" mean here?

- A: ripe
- B: heavy to carry
- C: sour taste
- D: vegetables with no seeds

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

- A: School is very citrus today.
- B: I want to go home and lie on my citrus.
- C: My brother is learning how to citrus a car.
- D: Oranges have a lot more citrus than potatoes.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** southern **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story the author says, "We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time." What does the word "southern" mean here?

- A: in the south
- B: sunny
- C: in the middle
- D: old

**Question:** Which ones of these sentences uses the word "southern" correctly?

- A: My aunt has southern knees, she can't walk very well.
- B: I have southern dollars in the wallet.
- C: Florida is a southern state.
- D: Sunlight is southern.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** crates **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In this story, the author says, "Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates." What does the word "crates" mean in this sentence?

- A: garbage cans
- B: wooden boxes
- C: coat pockets
- D: moving trucks

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

- A: I am very hungry for some crates.
- B: My dad and all his friends drive big crates.
- C: Jackie put a crate in her book bag.
- D: Crates are used to move items.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** weather **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story it says, "She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right". Which word is closest to "weather"?

- A: temperature
- B: taste
- C: color
- D: size

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

- A: My weather got sick.
- B: Mike brought weather to class today and the teacher was mad.
- C: I wore a big coat to go sledding, I hope I am ready for the weather.
- D: My shoes are too weather.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Fruits

Do you think lemons could grow in Florida?

### 2 - Giant lemon

Why did the main character's dad leave the one lemon on the tree extra long to see how big it would get?

### 3 - Citrus

What are some other kinds of citrus fruits besides lemons?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Do you think it is important to know where your food and drinks come from? You are to write and post here a 500 word?essay on your opinion. Please make sure to provide specific examples from the story?to help you?explain.

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