



A Lesson on The Election by Kendall Pope

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Election, Lincoln, reading, writing

Lesson Description: This lesson's goal is to have students be able to read a story critically and be able to answer specific questions using the text. Students will be asked to read the story then reread it to find specific answers and information to use to answer the following questions. The students will be asked to answer a series of vocabulary questions to further grow their knowledge on domain specific and general academic words. They will also have to answer a series of discussion questions to help them better understand the reading and questions that require them to dissect the reading. These questions will help the students better understand the content of the story and it will teach them how to read critically. This lesson will take 2 days to complete.

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.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).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

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 Election

by

Content: The Election?

? ? ? I was in Chicago when the country took a giant step. I saw history in the making.?

? ? ? I was at the Wigwam, thats what they called it. It is the Sauganash Hotel.?
There at the corner of Lake Street and Wacker Drive the Republicans met and fought. Most of them wanted William Seward. His manager Thurwood Weed said,? Who is this man Lincoln? A nobody from nowhere.?

? ? ? It looked like Seward had it locked up.?

? ? ? I met Thurwood Weed, who was there to get the votes for Seward. I have rarely met a man who was so devious, He would promise one thing to one person. Then another promise to a different person. And none of them would he keep. He lied all day long.?

? ? ? Im going to offer Lincoln the Vice Presidency, Weed told me. Of course he has the Illinois votes. But who else would vote for him. He is not really ready to be president. Look at my man. Seward is a leader. He is smart. He knows how to make decisions. He will not let other people tell him what to do.?

? ? ? I thought that Weed was a good name for him. He was not a decent man. He was buying votes. He was going to make sure his man got the nomination. He did not care about being honest.?

? ? ? I saw Lincolns team leader, David Davis, at the convention. I asked him what he would do to make sure Lincoln got the nomination. He just smiled. Later I learned he had gotten more of their supporters into the hall by giving them extra tickets. They printed those tickets themselves. Abe would not have liked this at all, said Davis, but we were not bribing people like Weed. And the Lincoln team gave them whistles. When Lincoln was nominated, there was so much noise that everyone thought this is our man.?

? ? ? Later after he was elected, Lincoln did something surprising. He made Seward his Secretary of State. I always thought this man is different. He knows how to get elected. He knows how to work with others. He knows how to lead our country.?

? ? ? Im not sure what is next for our country. It is 1862 and we are at war. I dont think that Seward would have been able to lead us through this war. I believe Abraham Lincoln can.?

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: rarely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In this story, our author says, "I have rarely met a man who was so devious". What does the word "rarely" mean in this sentence?

- A: often
- B: not often
- C: usually
- D: frequently

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "rarely" correctly?

- A: I like my steak cooked rarely.
- B: I rarely sweat when I'm running in the heat.
- C: I rarely see a person that is 7 feet tall.
- D: My rarely mother is sick.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Republicans **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In this story, our author says, "There at the corner of Lake Street and Wacker Drive the Republicans met and fought.". What does the word "Republicans" mean in this sentence?

- A: group of people who support the Republican party
- B: group of people who support the Democratic party
- C: people who work at the republic
- D: aliens

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

- A: I saw the Republicans cleaning the restaurant after their shift.
- B: The Republicans came down from Mars to learn about how we live on Earth.
- C: I stood with the Republicans at the rally because we have similar political views.
- D: Republicans have to pay to come into this concert because they are not from the United States.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: devious **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In this story, our author says, "I have rarely met a man who was so devious". What does the word "devious" mean in this sentence?

- A: honest
- B: thoughtful
- C: caring
- D: dishonest

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

- A: I met the most devious woman when she helped me carry my grocery bags to my car.
- B: The devious teacher told me everything I did wrong on my test and helped me understand what I was doing wrong.
- C: My devious brother stole my headphones but told me he had no idea what I was talking about when I asked him where they were.
- D: A devious politician tells the truth and never lies.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: nominated **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In this story, our author says, "When Lincoln was nominated, there was so much noise that everyone thought this is our man." What does the word "nominated" mean in this sentence?

- A: candidate being elected
- B: losing the election
- C: winning the medal
- D: killed

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

- A: I was nominated to run for Class President after I gave a great speech.
- B: He was nominated because he robbed a jewelry store.
- C: The doctors nominated my cat because he was sick.
- D: I nominated my old chair because it didn't go with my new couch.

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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 is Thurwood Weed...

In this story, the author tells that he rarely met a man who was so devious, when talking about Thurwood Weed. Why was Thurwood Weed considered so devious?

2 - "When Lincoln was nominated"...

The author describes how When Lincoln was nominated, there was so much noise that everyone thought this is our man. Why was there so much noise when Lincoln was nominated?

3 - "He knows how to get elected"...

After Lincoln was elected, the author states that He knows how to get elected. What did he do differently than Seward to get himself elected?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: At the end of this passage, the author says I don't think that Seward would have been able to lead us through this war. I believe Abraham Lincoln can. In 2-3 paragraphs, use evidence from the text to prove why? Abraham Lincoln would be able to get the United States through the war in 1862.?

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