



A Lesson on Lincoln's Choice by Coralia Santana

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: consequences, reflection, smart decisions

Lesson Description: Students will practice their reading and critical thinking skills by analyzing the text. Students are to think about the actions that the characters take in the text and reflect about how things could have been different.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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

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.

Lincoln's Choice

by

Content: This is a story that someone told about Abe Lincoln.

Abe Lincoln saved my life. We had been going to school together one year. The next year we had no school, because there were so few students to attend, there being only about twenty in the school the year before.

Consequently Abe and I had not much to do; but, as we did not go to school and our mothers were strict with us, we did not get to see each other very often. They knew there were dangers in the countryside. One Sunday morning my mother waked me up early, saying she was going to see Mrs. Lincoln, and that I could go along. Glad of the chance, I was soon dressed and ready to go. After my mother and I got there, Abe and I played all through the day. We were out in the hills near the river.

While we were wandering up and down the little stream called Knob Creek, Abe said: Right up there pointing to the east we saw a lot of blueberries there yesterday. Let's go over. We can bring a lot home.

The stream was too wide for us to jump across. We saw a foot-log and decided to try it. It was narrow, but Abe said, Let's do it. He was like that; he would take a chance if it was important to do something.

He went first and reached the other side all right. I went about half way across, when I slipped. He shouted, Don't look down nor up nor sideways, but look right at me and hold on tight! But I fell off into the creek and the water was about seven or eight feet deep. I could not swim, and neither could Abe. I was splashing and calling out.

So he got a stick and climbed out and held it out to me. I came up, grabbing with both hands, and he put the stick into my hands. I clung to it, and he pulled me out on the bank, almost dead. He got me by the arms and shook me well. Then he rolled me on the ground, and the water poured out of my mouth.

I was all right very soon. We promised each other that we would never tell anybody about it, and never did for years. My mother would have been so angry. I never told any one. But I can tell you now. He was a great problem solver even when he was a boy.

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: consequently **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Consequently Abe and I had not much to do..." What does the word "consequently" mean?

A: The kids had nothing to do as a consequence of something else.

B: The kids had to count something.

C: There were many things to do.

D: There was nothing to do.

Question: which of the sentences below uses the word "consequently" correctly?

A: consequently is a math theory.

B: the ducks consequently.

C: We ate too much cake; consequently, our tummies hurt.

D: tomorrow consequently today.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: strict **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: ... our mothers were very strict with us, we did not see each other very often." what is a synonym of the word "strict"?

A: soft, nice

B: severe, rigid

C: angry, furious

D: hungry

Question: which sentence below uses the word "strict" properly?

A: Carlos' parents are strict with him and do not let him go out with his friends.

B: the horses strict around the lake.

C: the strict is a car.

D: dogs eat food that contains 5% strict.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: stream **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: the stream was to wide to jump accross." How do you describe a stream?

A: a plant

B: a wide street

C: streaming on the internet

D: A small river

Question: which sentences uses the word "stream" correctly?

A: stream that

B: there was a stream around the base of the mountain

C: the stream car drove yesterday

D: tomorrow stream friday

Q: 4 WordPhrase: countryside **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: they knew there were dangers in the countryside." What does the word "countryside" mean?

A: landscape

B: the name of a dish

C: the new iphone

D: the city

Question: which sentence uses the word "countryside" correctly?

A: two libraries countryside the books

B: the countryside went to buy pens

C: My friend Carlos lives far away from the city in the countryside

D: the coffee taste like countryside

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 - Did Lincoln do wrong?

Do you think that Lincoln's actions put the narrator at risk? why?

2 - Did it closed?

Based on what the narrator explains about just a few students going to the school and then describing how he had nothing to do. What do you think happened to the school? why?

3 - can you swim?

Do you think that it was a good idea to try to cross the deep stream even though they did not know how to swim?
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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write at least 150 words about one of the following topics:

Do you think that Lincoln was brave or taking risks without thinking about the consequences? why?

What do you think that would have happened if the river had pulled the narrator harder than Lincoln was pulling the stick? explain.

Do you think that the narrator was smart when he decided to follow Lincoln along? why?

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