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A Lesson on Summer by Miraya Perri

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: summer

Lesson Description: the students will read this passage about a family going on a summer trip and then answer some questions about what they read.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

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

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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.

Summer

by

Content: I had been looking forward to the summer all year. We would go to stay with my grandparents. They lived on a farm in Illinois. They had all kinds of things to do. We would get up early and milk the cows. Then we would feed the chickens. It was so different from living in the city. It is like making a trip between civilizations. Consider how different it is to live in different ways--the city and the farm, the rural and the urban, my brother said. He was going to college and liked to use big words like that.

The day came to go there. I was excited. So was my brother. My mother packed a lunch for us to eat along the way. Then we left. After about 3 hours we were halfway there.

But then it started to rain. The road is dangerous, my mother said. We could skid. It was hard to see where we were on the road because the rain was so heavy. This is much more than a little rain, my brother said. The forecast was for just light rain.

My mother took an exit ramp. We left the highway and stopped at a restaurant. Better safe than sorry, she said. I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.

We were waiting there for about an hour when my brother said, Lets eat lunch. We all thought that was a great idea, so we did.

Imagine long ago when pioneers lived here, my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then. They would have been so tired. They would have been hot and hungry. We have gone about 120 miles. And we are comfortable. We have air conditioning and restaurants.

There have been so many changes that make a difference to how people travel, my brother said. Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars.

But that is what we have when we are at the farm, Mother replied. That is how your grandparents live. They dont have any cell phones, and they just have that slow old truck.

Just then the rain stopped. We finished our lunch and then were back on the road. Then we drove a long while to get us to the farm.

When we arrived, everyone was glad to be at the end of this trip and at the beginning of a great summer. Now we will have a great summer, my mother said. I agreed. This would be another good time.

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: skid **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "...But then it started to rain. ?The road is dangerous,? my mother said. ?We could skid.? It was hard to see where we were on the road because the rain was so heavy..." what does the work "skid" mean in this sentence?

- A:** to slide due to a wet surface
- B:** to swerve out of the way
- C:** to drive the wrong way
- D:** to speed

Question: which sentence below uses the word "skid" correctly?

- A:** while driving in the rain, my mom was being very cautious because she was afraid the car would skid.
- B:** while driving, i had to skid out of the way so I did not hit the squirrel.
- C:** when driving, it is illegal to skid.
- D:** when driving fast, sometimes people skid in and out of lanes.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: anticipate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In our story the author says "We left the highway and stopped at a restaurant. ?Better safe than sorry,? she said. ?I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.? What does the word "anticipate" mean in this sentence?

- A:** to expect something or someone
- B:** to be surprised
- C:** unpredictable
- D:** to not expect something or someone

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

- A:** I was anticipated when sarah walked in with pink hair.
- B:** I anticipated my friends by sneaking up on them in the halls.
- C:** I anticipated my mom throwing me a party on my birthday, she does this every year.
- D:** I anticipate me and my friends being in the same class because we never are.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: pioneer **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the author says ?Imagine long ago when pioneers lived here,? my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then." In this sentence, what does the word "pioneer" mean?

- A:** the first person to settle somewhere
- B:** the last person to settle somewhere
- C:** someone who explores the world
- D:** someone who travels a lot

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

- A:** Christopher Columbus was a pioneer in America.
- B:** My friend loves to pioneer around the world.
- C:** My mom pioneers to different places all of the time.
- D:** My friends and I love to pioneer during the summer.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: long while **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story the author says "Then we drove a long while to get us to the farm." what does the phrase "long while" mean in this sentence?

- A:** to be fast
- B:** to take a long time
- C:** to be somewhere fast
- D:** to drive slow

Question: which sentence uses the phrase "long while" correctly?

- A:** It took a long while driving our fast car.
- B:** It took a long while to go five minutes down the road.
- C:** it took us a long while to drive a couple miles.
- D:** It took us a long while to get to Europe on our flight coming from Florida.

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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 - Authors Purpose

what was the authors purpose for writing this story?

2 - why do you think the brother started talking about how pioneers used to live?

why do you think the brother started the conversation about pioneers? What made him think about this topic?

3 - why does the mother stop to eat?

why does the mother get off on an exit and eat instead of continuing to drive, even though they packed their lunch?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on how much you think we actually need all of our phones, fast cars, and wifi. do you think you or I could live like a pioneer for a day, why or why not? Make sure to provide specific examples.

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