



## A Lesson on My Painting by Shayna George

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** New experiences, reading comprehension, vocabulary words

**Lesson Description:** This lesson was created so students can expand and practice their inference making skills through vocabulary and through written responses. Students will practice this after learning about the experience of a Russian immigrant who moved to the United States. The passage talks about life transitions and the power of helping each other.

### 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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from 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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## 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.

### My Painting

by

**Content:** I wanted to show people how I felt about my new country. My family had moved here 5 years ago when I was just 7 years old. When we came I did not know any English. Everything was new and I was surprised every day. I had lived in a remote village far from the city. Now I was living in a city where there were so many people.

We would take the elevated train downtown. There we saw buildings that noted architects had designed. These architects were so famous that people all over the world knew their names. But I had never heard of them before. I looked up and was astonished at how high the buildings were.

I went to a school that was bigger than my whole village. More than 1,000 students go to the school. I remember my first day. The principal was friendly. So was the teacher. But I was mystified. I could not understand what the teacher and students were saying. Then another student came up to me during lunch. She said hello in Russian. I was so glad.

The teacher asked her to sit next to me for the rest of the school year and help me understand what they were saying. She was my official translator. But I wanted to learn English. So every day after school we would go to my home. She would help me learn English. To reciprocate, my mother would cook her family dinner. Once a week they would come to dinner. We would try hard to learn English, so instead of Russian everyone would talk in English.

Now I have learned English, and I have learned a lot about the United States. I will put some symbols in my painting that show how I feel about this land. It is a land of helpful people. It is a land of many heritages. It is a land of collaboration. People here work together to help each other make progress. I'm thinking of putting a flag on the background and then putting people holding hands in the foreground. I'll make a sketch first and then will paint it.

Making a painting is a lot like writing an essay. First you think of the idea you want to express. Then you think of ways to communicate that idea. I think my painting will be a great way to tell people how I feel about my new homeland.

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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:** Mystified **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says "I remember my first day. The principal was friendly. So was the teacher. But I was mystified. I could not understand what the teacher and students were saying." What does the word "mystified" mean used in this sentence?

- A: Excited
- B: Get sprayed with liquid
- C: Late
- D: Confused

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "mystified" correctly?

- A: It was so hot at the amusement park I needed to be mystified.
- B: I studied for five days so when I saw I got an A on my test, I was mystified.
- C: The magician's magic tricks mystified the audience.
- D: I was mystified to my appointment.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Remote **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says "I had lived in a remote village far from the city." What does the word ?remote? mean in this sentence?

- A: A device that controls a television
- B: Far away
- C: Interesting
- D: Warm

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "remote" correctly

- A: The farm I grew up on was in a remote part of the forest, it was very far from the rest of the city.
- B: The remote is sitting on the table in the living room.
- C: In the summertime, it is always remote where I live.
- D: Books can be a remote way to pass time.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Translator **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author says "The teacher asked her to sit next to me for the rest of the school year and help me understand what they were saying. She was my official translator." What does the word "translator" mean in this sentence?

- A: Someone who says what words in one language are in another language
- B: A helpful person
- C: An artist
- D: A good friend

**Question:** Which sentence uses "translator" correctly?

- A: She bought me candy when I was sad so now I think of her as a translator of mine.
- B: The translator was really good at helping people with their own art projects.
- C: I needed a translator when I first started working in Japan to help communicate with my coworkers.
- D: My translator is helping me with my math homework.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Collaboration **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story, the author says "It is a land of collaboration. People here work together to help each other make progress." What does "collaboration mean in this sentence?

- A: Working together
- B: Big groups of people
- C: Being alone
- D: Working hard

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "collaboration" correctly?

- A: There is a collaboration of students in the cafeteria.
- B: Our group project required a lot of collaboration.
- C: My boss wanted us to do a collaboration today so he sent us all to our computers to do work alone.
- D: Collaboration requires a lot of alone time.

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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 - What is the narrator trying to show in her painting?

The narrator says I'm thinking of putting a flag in the background and then putting people holding hands in the foreground. when describing the idea for her painting. Why does the narrator choose to paint this?

### 2 - Why was changing schools so life changing for the author?

Using examples from the story, why was this such a big transition for the author?

### 3 - Why did the author's mother cook dinner for the translator's family every week?

Why did the author's mother cook dinner for the translator's family every week?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write one to two paragraphs about whether or not the author was happy with her move to the United States. Provide at least two examples from the story to explain your reasoning.

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