



A Lesson on My Painting by Georgia Gee

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Painting and Feelings

Lesson Description: In today's lesson you will review a passage and unpack new and complex vocabulary words. But don't fret, if you need help, ask for it. We will also be talking about how our own experiences can relate with this story!

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.RL.4.7: Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.

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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: astonished **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I looked up and was astonished at how high the buildings were". What does the word "astonished" mean in this sentence?

- A: greatly surprised or impressed; amazed
- B: feeling disinterested in one's surroundings; bored
- C: feeling or showing sorrow; unhappy
- D: the state of being happy

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

- A: Melisa woke up and ate breakfast this morning, she was astonished.
- B: Melisa was astonished when she ate her lunch.
- C: Melisa was astonished when she flew on an airplane for the first time.
- D: Melisa went over to her friends house to do homework, she was so astonished.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: mystified **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "But I was mystified. I could not understand what the teacher and students were saying". What does the word "mystified" mean in this sentence?

- A: puzzled or confused
- B: tired and unable to wake up
- C: very enthusiastic and eager
- D: showing courage

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

- A: The magician has been mystifying his audiences for years with his amazing tricks.
- B: The soldier was mystified when he got home to his family.
- C: Abby sat on the bus mystified on her way to work.
- D: Grace was mystified when her mom gave her a puppy

Q: 3 WordPhrase: foreground **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I'm thinking of putting a flag on the background and then putting people holding hands in the foreground..." What does the word "foreground" mean in this sentence?

- A: the part of an image that is nearest to the person looking at it
- B: the part of an image that is furthest to the person looking at it
- C: the theme of an image
- D: the frame that you put a picture in

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

- A: The painting shows trees in the foreground and mountains in the background.
- B: The dog went on a walk in the foreground.
- C: Blake sat at a table and had a foreground sandwich.
- D: Becky's favorite part about school is the foreground.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: reciprocate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "She would help me learn English. To reciprocate, my mother would cook her family dinner". What does the word "reciprocate" mean in this sentence?

- A: to take something
- B: respond to a gesture or action by making an equal one
- C: to be angry at what someone did
- D: to give a gift to someone

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

- A: Anna reciprocated the gift by giving her friend flowers.
- B: Cole did not reciprocate by returning the favor.
- C: Belle woke up and reciprocated her teeth.
- D: Jasmine made her bed and put on her favorite reciprocate.

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 - Put yourself in her shoes....

Being a young child and moving to a new country with a new language can be scary. Especially when you don't speak the language. Share about a time when you faced something new. Where you scared, excited or maybe nervous? Describe your feelings and explain what happened. Then respond to two of your classmates about their stories and how they relate to yours.

2 - Put yourself in her shoes....

Being a young child and moving to a new country with a new language can be scary. Especially when you don't speak the language. Share about a time when you faced something new. Where you scared, excited or maybe nervous? Describe your feelings and explain how they relate to what the girl in our story experienced. Then respond to two of your classmates about their stories and how they relate to yours.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: I want you to write about what symbols YOU would put in your paintings to represent you and your heritage. Read the last paragrpah again, 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. Describe the shapes and colors you would use. Don't worry about the length of the essay, I want you to tap into your thoughts and say what is on your mind.

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