



## A Lesson on The Football Team by Drew Brown

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Character traits

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to give students the chance to define vocabulary words and open a discussion about leadership. The students will have discussions over leadership and give real world examples of leadership in their lives. The lesson will also help them learn to pull details and examples from the text to put into writing.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1?3 above.)

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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.

### The Football Team

by

**Content:** A team is a group of people with a common goal. A schools football team has two goals. One goal is to win. That is what the team wants to do. The other goal is to build character. Character is what a person values, how a person relates to others. That is why schools have football teams. They want to help students build good values.

There are many character traits that a football player can develop. One is leadership. The quarterback of the team is a leader. The quarterback makes choices which play to make, who will get the ball. The quarterback has a big job. The quarterback has to inspire the players to work together. If they are losing, the quarterback has to work even harder, to give the players hope they still can win.

There is another leader, too. The leader of the defensive group. When the defensive group is playing, that means the team may lose points. So the leader has to keep the team members working together to stop that.

Each team member builds character. They learn to cooperate. They learn to make good decisions. They work hard. They practice every day. They learn to follow the rules. If a team member does not follow the rules, the entire team suffers.

Each team member has a position. Each position is part of winning. No one player has the ability to win the game for the team. Only if the team works together does a team win.

People often say, There is no I in TEAM.

Whether the team wins or loses, at the end of the game they congratulate the other team. That is called sportsmanship. While they fight to win during the game, it is just a game. They cannot be angry with the other team. If they are, they'll hear from their coach.

The coach makes sure the team reaches the schools goal. The coach cares about the whole team. The coach gives each player advice. When the team wins, everyone celebrates. And the coach is glad. But after the season is over, the coach is still happy. The coach gets to see the players as they go to school every day. The character they have built is part of their success in school, too.

Some coaches say that if you go into a classroom at their school you'll be able to tell the players. It is not that they are bigger than the other students. It is the ones who are helping other students work. Teamwork is part of their lives.

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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:** Defensive Group **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "The leader of the defensive group. When the defensive group is playing, that means the team may lose points." What does the word "defensive group" mean in this sentence?

- A: Group of players who play defense
- B: Group who puts up fences
- C: Group of players who play offense
- D: Group of coaches

**Question:** Which of the following uses the word "defensive group" correctly?

- A: The defensive group is going back on the field to stop the offense.
- B: The defensive group is going back on the field to score a touchdown.
- C: The defensive group is coaching a great game.
- D: The defensive group is responsible for calling penalties on the players.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Position **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "Each team member has a position. Each position is part of winning." What is the definition of "position" in this sentence?

- A: What color the player's jerseys are
- B: How many points have been scored
- C: How many players there are on the field
- D: Where a football players plays on the field

**Question:** Which of the following uses "position" correctly?

- A: The position scores a touchdown.
- B: The coaches position is to coach the players.
- C: Johnny plays the running back position.
- D: Johnny's jersey is in position.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Leadership **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** "One is leadership. The quarterback of the team is a leader." What does the word "leadership" mean in this sentence?

- A: A referee who does his job
- B: A person who leads a team, helping the team work together
- C: The numbers on player's jerseys
- D: The way the football is shaped

**Question:** Which of the following uses "leadership" correctly?

- A: The quarterback must have great leadership if he wants to win.
- B: The referee has to throw leadership when a penalty is committed.
- C: The quarterback throws leadership to the wide receivers.
- D: The coach has to leadership his team to the field.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Trait **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** "There are many character traits that a football player can develop." What does the word "trait" mean in the sentence?

- A: The name of the team
- B: The number on a jersey
- C: A quality or characteristic a person has
- D: The stickers on the helmets

**Question:** Which of the following uses the word "trait" correctly?

- A: Traits are a form of transportation.
- B: The coaches make traits with each other.
- C: The quarterback's traits have to score points.
- D: A quarterback must have many traits, including leadership.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Football Positions

If you played football which position would you want to be? Why?

### 2 - Most Important Position

What do you think the most important part of the football team is, when looking at leadership?

### 3 - Quarterback's Job

What are some of the quarterback's main responsibilities? Provide examples from the text.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** What is an example in your life of you using leadership? Write 1-2 paragraphs about how you have used leadership skills in your life.

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