



A Lesson on Our Lemons by Emma Tischler

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Vocabulary

Lemons

Literature

Lesson Description: We will read and analyze the short story, "Our Lemons". Students will answer questions about story structure and vocabulary, and complete a free-response question.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5: Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text, using terms such as chapter, scene, and stanza; describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context 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.

Our Lemons

by

Content: I got up early. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than 20 lemon trees. My father has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the lemon trees stay green all year round. We have a big grove of lemon trees.

My father says California grows the most lemons of any place in the world. Every day we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that big, they are ready to pick.

They still are green when we pick them. We put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and Sunday to get the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town with the lemons.

Once my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it would get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it. My father said, pick them when they're green and small. They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green.

Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates. Then they take them to the train station. They ship them with oranges they grow, too. They send them to far away places. By the time they get to where they are going, they turn yellow. There are people who buy them all over the world.

My mother says that lemons are great but not by themselves. She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right. But when he goes to the store he comes back with apples. Those apples grow in Washington state.

My mother says our kitchen has foods from many places. She likes to drink tea from China. She puts our lemons into it and some sugar. She says the sugar comes from Brazil. So there are three countries in that one cup.

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Task 1: 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 - Tone

What is the author's tone in the story? Explain why you think so with evidence from the text.

2 - Story Structure

Does this story have a clear five-part narrative structure? If so, label the introduction, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion. If it does not, explain why.

3 - Purpose

What is the author's purpose for this story?

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Task 2: 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: Grove **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove." What word is a synonym for "grove"?

- A: Hilltop
- B: Plateau
- C: Valley
- D: Woods

Question: Which sentence has the correct usage of the word "grove"?

- A: The boys felt grove when they ate cake.
- B: We drove past through the grove to get to a farm.
- C: The cat caught a grove with his paws.
- D: The grove looked at us.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Weather **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right". What does the word, "weather" mean in this sentence?

- A: the state of the atmosphere at a place and time as regards heat, dryness, sunshine, wind, rain, etc.
- B: wear away or change the appearance or texture of (something) by long exposure to the air.
- C: come safely through (a storm).
- D: expressing a doubt or choice between alternatives.

Question: Here is an example: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "weather" correctly?

- A: She feels weather today.
- B: The weather said,
- C: The weather today is sunny.
- D: She lost her weather on the bus.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Green **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "They still are green when we pick them." What does the word "green" mean in this sentence.

- A: of the color between blue and yellow in the spectrum; colored like grass or emeralds.
- B: consisting of fresh green vegetables.
- C: (of a ski run) of the lowest level of difficulty, as indicated by colored markers on the run.
- D: denoting a green light or flag used as a signal to proceed.

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

- A: Isabelle liked her green socks.
- B: Green feels sick today.
- C: Her dad greened the house with paint.
- D: When Billy is mad he greens.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Station **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Then they take them to the train station." What does the word "station" mean in this sentence?

- A: a small military base, especially of a specified kind.
- B: a regular stopping place on a public transportation route, especially one on a railroad line with a platform and often one or more buildings.
- C: a place or building where a specified activity or service is based.
- D: a subsidiary post office.

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

- A: She left the station in a hurry to catch a taxi.
- B: He station whenever he is walking.
- C: The beautiful stations of the woods can be any color.
- D: Sometimes, stations change their migration patterns.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on how you would feel about picking lemons before school.

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