



A Lesson on The Cloud by Adiana Fuentes

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, 5th Grade, A lesson on the Cloud

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to teach students how to read and write critically and use context clues to figure out the meaning of a new word. Students will be asked to read and reread the story to answer vocabulary questions and respond to discussion questions. After this lesson, students should have expanded their vocabulary and have determined the bigger picture of the story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2e: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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 Cloud

by

Content: One hot summer morning a little Cloud rose out of the sea and floated lightly and happily across the blue sky. Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields, while she herself floated on the morning breeze, hither and thither, without a care.

Oh, if I could only help the poor people down there! she thought. If I could but make their work easier, or give the hungry ones food or the thirsty a drink! And, as the day passed, and the Cloud became larger, this wish to do something for the people of earth was ever greater in her heart.

On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays. It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor. Sometimes they stood and looked up at the Cloud, as if they were praying, and saying, Ah, if you could help us!

I will help you; I will! said the Cloud. And she began to sink softly down toward the earth.

But suddenly, as she floated down, she remembered something that had been told to her when she was a tiny Cloud-child, in the lap of Mother Ocean: it had been whispered that if the Clouds go too near the earth, they die. When she remembered this, she held herself from sinking, and swayed here and there on the breeze, thinking, thinking. At last, she stood quite still, and spoke boldly and proudly. She said, Men of earth, I will help you, come what may!

The thought made her suddenly marvelously big, strong, and powerful. Never had she dreamed that she could be so big. Like a mighty angel of blessing, she stood above the earth, and lifted her head and spread her wings far over the fields and woods. She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight; the trees and the grasses bowed

before her; yet all the earth-creatures felt that she meant them well.

Yes, I will help you, cried the Cloud once more. I will give my life for you!

As she said the words a wonderful light glowed from her heart, the sound of thunder rolled through the sky, and a love greater than words can tell filled the Cloud; down, down, close to the earth she swept, and gave up her life in a blessed, healing shower of rain.

That rain was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered. Over the whole countryside, as far as the rain fell, a lovely rainbow crossed the sky.

Soon that, too, was gone. But long, long afterward the men and animals the Cloud saved kept her blessing in their hearts. They remembered it every time they saw a rainbow.

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: desolate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The Author in our story says "Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought." What does the word "desolate" mean in this sentence?

A: empty

B: hot

C: wet

D: humid

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

A: Once the party was over I felt desolated.

B: The weather was very desolate Saturday afternoon.

C: It was a desolate wasteland except for some grazing sheep.

D: The plants were so full and vibrate, they were desolated.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: fiercely **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays." What does the word "fiercely" mean in this sentence?

A: weak

B: strong

C: loud

D: quiet

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

A: The baby is sleeping, we have to talk fiercely.

B: The dog fiercely barked at the cat.

C: The sheep lost the fight because he was fierce.

D: He fought fiercely, but his opponent easily got the best of him.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: obliged **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor." What does the word "obliged" mean in this sentence?

A: required

B: forced

C: asked

D: punished

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

A: The dog was bad so he was obliged.

B: I obliged my sister to make me a sandwich.

C: I needed help so I was obliged to hire a team.

D: I feel obliged after a long day.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: awe-struck **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight; the trees and the grasses bowed before her; yet all the earth-creatures felt that she meant them well." What does the phrase "awe-struck" mean in this sentence?

A: filled with anger

B: feeling sorry

C: shocked

D: filled with amazement

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "awe-struck" correctly?

A: I was so angry at him, I was awe-struck.

B: She felt awe-struck about her dog being sick.

C: The concert was truly magical, I was awe-struck.

D: I was awe-struck that traffic was so bad today.

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 does the little cloud mean by "come what may"?

At last, she stood quite still, and spoke boldly and proudly. She said, Men of earth, I will help you, come what may! Explain what is meant by the phrase come what may. What is the little cloud referring to when she said that? What clues did you use to figure that out?

2 - Why was the rain a good thing?

The author said, That rain was the Cloud's great deed. Why was the rain a positive thing? What clues did you use to help you find that out?

3 - Moral of the story

After reading the passage, learning new vocabulary, and using your context clues, what is the moral of the story? What message do you think the author was trying to get across? Why do you think the author wanted to share this message? What words helped you determine the meaning??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing activity, think about if you were the cloud. What would you have done for the people? If you wouldn't want to help, explain why. What would you have done the same or different from the cloud in the story? What are the pros and cons of your decision? You should provide a well thought out response that consists of 2-3 paragraphs.

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