



A Lesson on Mama's Happy Christmas by Bevin O'Brien

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Understanding families. Letting go of material items and recognizing family bond.

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to encourage children to read and reread an emotional story. To find key points and read carefully. Students will see how Love is key and how sometimes family is what you need. When the children read and reread this passage and answer a series of questions, do a short essay and some discussion posts, they can better understand the content.

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.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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

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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.

Mama's Happy Christmas by

Content: It had seemed to the Johnson children that they would have a very sad Christmas. Mama had been very ill, and their father had been so anxious about Mama that he could not think of anything else. Everyone had been quiet for days. They did not want to wake Mama when she was napping. They did not even put up a Christmas tree because they didn't want to have one. Everyone felt very sad.

When Christmas Day arrived, they received great news. Mama said, I'm feeling much better today, so I am coming downstairs!

Mama looked so much better. Though she was still tired, she came downstairs and lay down on the couch. The family brought their presents out and opened them all together that morning.

I am sorry I did not get a chance to buy presents for you, said Mama.

This is the best present we could have received, said father. You are feeling better.

I am glad everyone feels well. I can tell you do because you are all smiling.

Why, I NEVER had such a happy Christmas before, said Marie. And it's just because you are well again.

But what about dinner? asked Mama.

Mrs. Jones from next door is bringing it, said Marie. She said she remembered how you had been so helpful when she had her new baby, and she was glad to be able to help you.

Mama said, OK, then I will go upstairs and take a nap and come back down at dinner time.

Marie said to everyone else, We should do something to make it a special night.

Let's put on a play, Father said.

Oh, yes! they all cried, It would be fun; we can make one up ourselves. So all day long, they were busy working on the play. First they planned the play; it would be a play about their own family. It would tell about how they moved to Chicago.

Then after dinner, when Mama was saying what a wonderful day she had, the children said, We have a surprise for you. We wrote a play, and we would like to perform it now.

Then they put on the play. Each of them played themselves, except for Felicia, who played Marie, and Marie, who played Mama. Felicia was only one year old when they moved in, so they used one of her dolls to be the baby.

Mama laughed and laughed. The play was funny because everyone was so happy. They remembered how excited everyone had been to move to Chicago. They even had Mrs. Jones come in and play her part. She was their neighbor now and had been the first person they met when they moved in.

I know this, said Mama, I feel so much better. A loving family is definitely the best medicine, and a good neighbor helps everyone feel better.

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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: Anxious **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In this story you read it says "Mama had been very ill, and their father had been so anxious about Mama that he could not think of anything else." In this sentence what does the word "anxious" mean?

- A: Loss of memory
- B: Excited
- C: Eager
- D: Full of mental distress

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "anxious" correctly?

- A: The beach was so calm and peaceful it made me feel anxious.
- B: "You seem anxious to get your test grade."
- C: I dropped my spoon and felt anxious.
- D: "Thanks for the calming lotion you gave me for my birthday, it made me feel anxious."

Q: 2 WordPhrase: received **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story "they received great news." What does the word received mean in this sentence?

- A: got a letter
- B: thought there was
- C: were informed of
- D: never had

Question: Which of the following sentences below use the word "received" correctly?

- A: "I have been sick for days, I cannot believe that I recieved this cold."
- B: "I received the good news of your new baby!"
- C: "Did you receive a haircut?"
- D: I am so hungry, I cannot wait until I can receive my salad for lunch."

Q: 3 WordPhrase: perform **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the family says "We wrote a play, and we would like to perform it now.? To the mother. What does it mean to "perform it now"?

- A: Give it to you now
- B: practice now
- C: put on the play now
- D: tell you about it now

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "perform" correctly?

- A: The band will perform songs from their new album.
- B: " I would like to perform a math problem now."
- C: You performed a great dinner.
- D: When I was sleeping I performed a dream.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: "Mama had been very ill" **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of this story states that "Mama had been very ill" What does the word "ill" mean?

- A: Sad
- B: worried
- C: sick
- D: upset

Question: Which one of the sentences below use the word "ill" correctly?

- A: You seem healthy and so ill!
- B: I have been in bed all day, i feel ill.
- C: Those tomatos look ill.
- D: My shoes are too small I think that I am ill.

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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 - "It had seemed to the Johnson children that they would have a very sad Christmas."

Please give specific examples from the text of why the Johnson family felt that they would have a very sad Christmas. Put your self in the shoes of the Johnson family, how would you feel? Be specific, elaborate!

2 - Mama is coming down stairs!

When Mama announced that she was feeling better and was going to come down stairs, how do you think the children felt? Do you think the family was hopeful or doubtful? Why?

3 - How did they make Christmas extra special?

How did they make Christmas extra special? Use specific examples. Follow up by explaining why that made it extra special.

4 - Over all what did you think?

On this post please discuss your opinion about this story. Did you think it was well written? Was there enough to it? What specifically did you like or not like? Did it have a good message?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For this writing assignment please write an essay about a specific time in your life where you felt family meant more than anything. Include examples from the story we read that relate to your own experience? Make sure to provide specific examples. Submit your assignment using this box. Good luck, be creative and dig deep!

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