



## A Lesson on Changing Our Street by Andrea Rivera

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Community, Reading

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson, students will read the story "Changing our Street". They will apply knowledge on the story by answering questions on the meanings of words and engaging in discussions. They will write a two paragraph essay in the end to conclude the lesson and show deep understanding of the passage.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7: Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1a: Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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.

### Changing Our Street

by

**Content:** There were many people driving down our street. They drove too fast, and my mother was worried. She thought they might hurt someone. She called the alderman's office. The alderman is the representative of your part of Chicago, a person who works in the government. Voters elect the aldermen, and anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem. My mother had called them before when there was a problem with trash collection.

The alderman came to look at our street. He said, Yes, I see the problem. But we need evidence so that I can persuade the office of Streets and Sanitation to come and fix it. I'll be following up. After he left we thought we would not get any help quickly, but we were wrong. The next day someone came to our street with a camera, and he stayed all day. It looked like he was taking photos of the street. I went to ask him what he was doing, and he explained that he had a device that was measuring the speed of cars. He said that he had already found ten cars speeding on our street. The next day a police officer came. She gave tickets to drivers who were speeding.

Then one week later workers came, and they installed a stop sign at the corner. Now cars would have to stop there. My mother felt relieved that this had happened. She said, See what one phone call can do? But the cars still were going too fast. They would drive fast and then stop quickly, so it still was dangerous. We did not expect that a police officer could stay there all day to give drivers tickets. We need to make another call, I said. This time I called the alderman's office.

The next week workers came again, and this time they came in a big truck. They drew lines on the street. Then they poured concrete where the lines were. They worked all day, and at the end of the day, we had a way to slow the cars down. We had speed bumps.

Someone invented speed bumps. When you drive on a street and get to a speed bump you have to slow down. If you don't slow down, you have a problem. Your car rocks up and down, and that can even knock some part off the car.

This story is part of our family's history, now. We believe that we are responsible for our street and that other people should be responsible, too. My mother got a change made with one phone call, and then I got more changes with another call. We have made our street a safer place because we took action.

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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:** Persuade **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "persuade" mean in this sentence: "But we need evidence to "persuade" the office of Streets and Sanitation to come and fix it"

- A: To rush someone to complete a task
- B: To argue someone to do something
- C: To lie to someone so they do something
- D: To ask someone to do something

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

- A: I need to persuade her to consider my offer about the job
- B: I accidentally persuade to her about my real reason for not coming to work
- C: I persuade him if he took my favorite bracelet
- D: I need to persuade them, they are taking too long to complete the job

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** relieved **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says:My mother felt "relieved" that this had happened. What does the word "relieved" mean in this sentence.

- A: No longer feeling negative emotions
- B: To become wealthy
- C: To be Free
- D: Feeling confused

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "relieved" correctly?

- A: I feel relieved because I don't understand the topic.
- B: The firefighter relieved me from the house fire
- C: I feel relieved that I paid of my debts.
- D: A millionaire is considered relieved

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** measuring **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** WHat does the word measuring mean in this sentence? I went to ask him what he was doing, and he explained that he had a device that was "measuring" the speed of cars.

- A: tracking an object
- B: Determining the size, amount or degree of something
- C: Following an object
- D: determining what an object looks like

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

- A: I am measuring my living room by using a measuring tape
- B: I am measuring the amount of things I do today
- C: I need to keep measuring my dog on his walks so that he does not get lost
- D: They need to keep measuring the way that my painting will look like in the end

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Elect **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "elect" mean in this sentence? Voters "elect" the aldermen, and anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem.

- A: Finding someone
- B: Searching
- C: Choosing someone
- D: Needing someone

**Question:** WHich sentence below uses the word "elect" correctly?

- A: People elect who they want to be the new president of the United States
- B: I need to elect whoever took my favorite pencil
- C: She decided to elect him out of the house.
- D: For a moment, I decided I need to elect whoever was responsible for me losing the game.

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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 - After reading the passage, what was the importance behind resolving the speeding issue?

The passage shares the story of how a mother and a son help the community. After reading the passage, what was the importance behind resolving the speeding issue?

2 - What are some ways that you could help the community around you?

The passage shares the importance of taking action and helping the community, what are some ways that you could help the community around you?

3 - How would you persuade the Office of Streets and Sanitation to fix the problem at hand?

In the story, we get a glimpse at how the Alderman attempts to persuade the Office of Streets and Sanitation so that they help them with the problem. How would you persuade the Office of Streets and Sanitation to fix the problem at hand?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write two paragraphs about what you think was the leading reason for the mother and son to take action and fix the speeding issue in the community. Make sure to include evidence from the text to support your reasoning.

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