



A Lesson on The Football Team by Kennedy Jordan

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, sportsmanship, teamwork

Lesson Description: The goal of this activity is for students to work on reading comprehension and detailed writing while drawing from the passage "The Football Team". Students should work on using context clues to find the meaning of words in the vocabulary section, and focus on relating the passage to real-life circumstances in the writing section. Students should include textual evidence for their writing responses.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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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: develop **WordPhraseTier:** 2

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

- A: to misunderstand
- B: to build or grow
- C: to lack in something
- D: to play

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

- A: Cassie develops her cupcakes with sprinkles on top.
- B: It is clear the farmer's crop is developing, since the leaves are wilting.
- C: Ian and Luke's friendship began to develop after they worked on a school group project together.
- D: Isabella learned to develop by cleaning her room.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: sportsmanship **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Whether the team wins or loses, at the end of the game they congratulate the other team. That is called "sportsmanship". What does the word "sportsmanship" mean in this sentence?

- A: to respect/honor
- B: to make new friends
- C: to exclude
- D: to be patient

Question: Which of the sentences listed below uses the word "sportsmanship" correctly?

- A: Zach showed good sportsmanship by guarding the goal for his soccer team.
- B: Ben showed good sportsmanship by running as fast as he could in his track meet.
- C: Sadie showed good sportsmanship by accepting flowers from her parents after her dance recital.
- D: Kate showed good sportsmanship by high-fiving her teammates, and their competitors, after her gymnastics meet.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: cooperate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Each team member builds character. They learn to cooperate." What does the word "cooperate" mean in this sentence? (Use context clues!)

- A: to participate/work together
- B: to listen/be still
- C: to exercise
- D: to share opinions

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "cooperate" correctly?

- A: The class cooperated by arguing over materials.
- B: Ava and her little brother showed cooperation by sharing their legos.
- C: Jess tries to cooperate by disobeying her parents.
- D: Ethan cooperated by yelling at his opponent's team to encourage his own.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: position **WordPhraseTier:** 3

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

- A: to believe
- B: to establish
- C: a place
- D: a team member

Question: Which of the provided sentences uses the word "position" correctly?

- A: Macy believes in her position.
- B: Sally's position is to be kind to others.
- C: Lenny positions tennis balls.
- D: Jack's position in baseball is "pitcher".

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. Each response should be thoughtful and 120 words minimum with complete sentences.?

1 - Why is leadership an important character trait for teamwork?

There are many character traits that a football player can develop. One is leadership. Describe why leadership is important for teamwork to be successful, and give an example of a leadership position seen in a sport (it can be any sport, does not have to be football).

2 - What are some responsibilities coaches have?

The coach cares about the whole team. Drawing from the text, what are some responsibilities coaches have, and how do those responsibilities impact team members? (Make sure to use specific examples from the text, as well as providing your own ideas)

3 - What are some examples of sportsmanship?

Think about some ways someone can show sportsmanship and list those examples. How could sportsmanship make a long-term difference in someone's life?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing assignment reflect on this quote from the text: ...There is no I in TEAM. How do you interpret this quote? Then, picture a team, club, or group project you have been a part of. How have you related to this quote in that setting? Make sure to provide specific examples, your post needs to be 500 words minimum with complete sentences.?

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