



## A Lesson on The Quarterback by Jeffrey Folger

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** The Quarterback, Lesson, Vocabulary, Morals

**Lesson Description:** This lesson teaches students the moral of the story: The Quarterback. Critical thinking and vocabulary utilized throughout.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

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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.

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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.

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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 Quarterback

by

**Content:** Jos was a quarterback at his old school. The team had won 8 of its 10 last games. He knew how to play very well. He had to transfer to a new school this year because his family had moved to the other side of the city.

When he got to school the first day, he went to see the football coach. He said, I want to be quarterback. ?

You're late, the coach replied. We had tryouts last spring. We already have a quarterback. We even have a backup. So you can come to practice, but we don't have a place for you on the team.

Jos was discouraged. He told his stepfather that he wanted to go back to his old school. But his stepfather said that they could not move back there because his new job was on this side of the city. Your mother's family is near here, too, and we need to go to help them sometimes now that your grandmother is sick.

Jos had not made any friends, and he sat alone in his room. He would text his old friends at his old school, and they would text back with news. But that just made him more unhappy.

Then he went to the first practice. The coach said, Jos, help with the warm-up. Let's see what you can do.

Jos played with the team, practicing, just throwing passes at first. Then the coach put him into some plays. Meanwhile, Jos was watching Mason, the quarterback. He's not that good, he said. I could do better. But he knew he was wrong. Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately.

Then Mason turned to him. Let's give Jos a chance. So Jos did take the quarterback role for one play. As they played, he realized that it wasn't the quarterback who made the play work. It was the whole team. The team took the ball he passed and made a touchdown. All he had done was make the first pass.

After the practice, he went to the coach. He told him that he would be proud to be able to help the team. He said that he did not expect to be on the team but wanted to be with them. I just love football, he said. I didn't realize until today that I just want to be part of the game.

The coach asked him to be part of their practices from then on. Next year, Jos, we will have a position for you.

By the end of the season, Jos had many friends. One of his best friends was Mason. ?

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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:** Accurately **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "accurately" mean in this sentence? Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately.

- A: Mason could throw the ball with a spiral.
- B: Mason could throw the ball on target.
- C: Mason could throw the ball while doing tricks.
- D: Mason could throw the ball harder.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "accurately" correctly.

- A: The painter accurately painted the woman, as it looked nothing like her.
  - B: The police officer could not accurately track the speed of the car, as he tracked it going exactly 10 MPH faster than the speed limit.
  - C: The worker accurately completed his inventory, as all items were accounted for.
  - D: The swimming instructor accurately demonstrated how to dive, as he cannonballed into the pool.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Position **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "position" mean in this sentence? ?Next year, Jos?, we will have a position for you.?

- A: Jose will have party next year.
- B: Jose will have chores to do next year.
- C: Jose will go on a trip next year.
- D: Jose will have a spot on the football team next year.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "position" correctly.

- A: The woman had a job interview for the open position at the store.
  - B: The man was in position of the girl's phone.
  - C: The boy had to share his position for lunch.
  - D: The position melted away in the sun.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Transfer **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "transfer" mean in this sentence? He had to transfer to a new school this year because his family had moved to the other side of the city."

- A: Jose had to eat.
- B: Jose had to go back-to-school shopping.
- C: Jose had to relocate.
- D: Jose had to ride his bike.

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

- A: The businessman made the transfer from sales to management.
  - B: The car makes a loud transfer when the engine starts.
  - C: The dog did not transfer well with the cat.
  - D: The ball transferred off the ground.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Backup **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "Fright" mean in this sentence? We already have a quarterback, We even have a backup.

- A: The team had no quarterbacks on the roster.
- B: The team already had clean jerseys.
- C: The team already had a 2nd quarterback on the roster.
- D: The team needed a kicker.

**Question:** Which one of the words below uses the word "backup" correctly.

- A: The teacher did not like it when her students would backup early.
  - B: After getting it repaired, the car was backup and running.
  - C: The man fell on his backup.
  - D: If mom burned dinner, takeout was always a backup plan.
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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 - Why do you think..?

Why do you think Jose changes his mind from wanting to be quarterback to just wanting a position on the team?

### 2 - Why was Jose..?

Why was Jose so discouraged in the beginning of the story?

### 3 - What is the irony..?

What is ironic about Jose and Mason becoming best friends at the end of the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 words essay on .... Make sure to provide specific examples.

What do you think the purpose of this story is? Is there an undelying message?

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