



## A Lesson on The Train Ride by Toriann Garver

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour

**Lesson Keywords:** Toriann Garver

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson we will be reading about a boy and his mother, taking a train ride. After reading the passage, we will have four vocabulary words we will have a few questions to answer about each one. Then we will partake in a class discussion. After our discussion we will answer some questions on our own.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

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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.

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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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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.3a: Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.

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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 Train Ride

by

**Content:** Hurry up, Tee, or we're going to miss it.?

My name is actually Terrence, but you'd never know it from listening to everyone?around me. The only person who ever called me by my proper name was my grandmother,?but since she's been gone, Tee is all I hear.?

Get out of the fridge. We don't have time, and you already finished the last of the?macaroni.?

Mom generally moves at 90 miles an hour, but she's really in overdrive this evening.?Since this whole thing began, she's been watching the news every night, clipping newspaper?articles, and talking about nothing but politics to anyone who'll sit still and listen for more?than a minute. Except for the times when she's chasing after me, I've never seen her so?energized. The way she's been talking about it all week long, you'd think that she was the one?delivering the acceptance speech tonight.?

If you're not ready in 30 seconds, I'm leaving you here, she yells from the front door.?But I know she wouldn't leave without me. You'll be grounded for a month of Sundays if?we're still on the train when he begins.?

The truth is that she managed to get me excited about the election, too. I'm not quite as?excited as she is. I don't think anybody is. But seeing someone who looks like me, a skinny?kid with big ears, become President of the United States, well, it makes me think anything is?possible. That thought is enough to get me to slam shut the refrigerator door, grab my?sweatshirt, and race down the hallway for the door.?

As we speed walk towards the station, I have to almost run to keep up with Mom. I?never saw her hurry like this.?

Finally, we're at the station, and I feel like we're really on our way now. When the train?pulls in, I can't believe my eyes. Each train car is packed full. There's standing room only, just?like rush hour. It seems like everyone is talking, and even the silent few are smiling. I've?never seen any of these people in my life, yet people are talking with me.?

The intercom crackles: 47th Street, 47th Street. No smoking or radio players. Next?stop 35th.?

I look over to my mom, who's lost in thought. I know she can't tell whether or not I?understand everything that's going on - that's been going on for these last 12 months. I don't?know if I do, but I feel a tingling inside that tells me I might.?

Harrison... Harrison. No smoking or radio players. Next stop, Jackson. Thats Grant?Park. Everyone cheersit is so exciting.?

I feel my heartbeat quicken as I realize that, for once in my life, I won't be reading about?the big things that make it into history books. I'll be watching it unfold in front of my eyes.?

I look over at my mom and catch her looking at me, nodding. We've arrived.

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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:** grounded **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Use the word "grounded" in the same text as the story in a sentence.

**A:** I can't go out tonight, I'm grounded.

**B:** The best fiction is grounded, made real, by its sense of place.

**C:** Yet the music was crackling and bright, grounded by a low thrum.

**D:** Her impeccable attention to detail, whether in dialogue or description, grounded her work.

**Question:** What is the meaning of "grounded" as used in the text?

**A:** prohibited or prevented from flying

**B:** well balanced and sensible

**C:** punished

**D:** hit a pitched ball so that it bounces on the ground

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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** energized **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Use the word "energized" in a sentence.

**A:** I go to the gym to get energized.

**B:** When I woke up from my nap I felt fresh and energized.

**C:** Dancing will help you get energized.

**D:** Bob is energized after working 12 hours in one day.

**Question:** What is the meaning of "energized"?

**A:** become tired

**B:** Being busy

**C:** Supply energy

**D:** Being lonely

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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** tingling **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "tingling" mean?

**A:** An experience or cause to experience a slight prickling or stinging sensation.

**B:** To have a tangle in a wire or hair.

**C:** To be emotional.

**D:** To be worried.

**Question:** Choose the same tense of "tingle" are used in the passage.

**A:** Tingling

**B:** Tingles

**C:** Tingles

**D:** Tingle

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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** acceptance **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What is the meaning of acceptance as used in the passage?

**A:** Agreement with or belief in an idea.

**B:** Willingness to tolerate a difficult or unpleasant situation.

**C:** To be admitted into a group.

**D:** Both A and B

**Question:** Use the word "acceptance" in a sentence, just as used in the text.

**A:** Joan finally received her acceptance letter to Yale University.

**B:** Deb wants acceptance for everyone in the country.

**C:** Although Will doesn't agree with what Tyler said, he still accepts him.

**D:** Joey wants the boy band to accept him.

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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 is said twice...

No smoking or radio players, is said twice, over the intercom, what do you think is the significance of this??

### 2 - A Month of Sundays

What do you think Tee's mom means by a month of Sundays, when she said? You'll be grounded for a month of Sundays if we're still on the train when he begins. Is she only going to ground him on Sundays??

### 3 - For once in my life...

Tee says, for once in my life, I won't be reading about the big things that make it into history books. I'll be watching it unfold in front of my eyes. Have you ever been at an event that changed history, or have you always read everything in a book, newspaper, or watched it on T.V?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Where do you think Tee and his mother were going to see the president??

Do you think Tee likes being called Tee or do you think he prefers Terrence??

Do you think Tee and his grandmother were close before she passed away?

Why do you think he compares himself to the president??

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Write 250 words minimum.

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