



A Lesson on The Challenge by Alyvia Marcos

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: The Challenge, Vocabulary, Analysis, Inferences

Lesson Description: Students will read "The Challenge" and then make inferences based on the text through vocabulary and analysis questions. This assignment will convey the message that it is important to learn from our mistakes.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3a: Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

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.

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.

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 Challenge

by

Content: Mrs. Bertram loved her son, but she worried about him. He was always losing things, and he did not take care of his toys or clothes. She wanted him to be more careful. She wanted him to be responsible.

She was reading a book one morning, or at least she was trying to. It was not easy to do so because Robert was in the hall playing with his drum. Suddenly the drumming stopped and Robert rushed into the room crying.

I broke it! I broke it, he sobbed.

Your drum? asked his mother. How did you do that?

I was beating it with the knives and--

With the knives! exclaimed his mother. Where were your drumsticks?

I--I--don't know, sobbed Roger.

Have you lost them? said Mrs. Bertram. She needed no words to know the answer. Robert's manner was quite enough. You know, Robert, what I said would happen the next time you lost anything.

Yes, said Robert, You said I must give away all my toys to some little boys who would know how to take care of them.

Yes, said his mother. I see you remember. I will send them all to the children's hospital tonight.

But, mama, said Robert, if I don't have any toys to take care of, how can I learn to take care of them?

Mrs. Bertram had to turn away so that Robert would not see her smile. I will have to think of some other way to teach you to be careful. I will think of something, and I will tell you what to do tonight.

That night, she told him, I have decided that there is another way you can show how careful you are. I want you to do the laundry every week for two months.

Robert looked astonished. Boys don't wash clothes, he said.

Sometimes, said his mother, smilingly. Now if you do this every day for two months, I will know you have become more responsible. Being careful is part of growing up. It means you are responsible, and it means people can trust you. This is a challenge. It is something to do that is not easy. It will help everyone in the family.

The next week Robert began his work. At first, he disliked it very much. But after a while he changed his mind. He wanted to show his mother he was responsible. He not only washed the clothes, but he also folded them neatly. He kept his toys in a box where he could find them. He was careful with everything.

The day when his two months would be up was Christmas Day. Imagine Roger's delight when he saw he had a new coat, a video game and a new drum and drumsticks. On them was a note: For Robert, who is very responsible. He felt proud.

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: Sobbed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "sobbed" mean as used in this sentence?

"I broke it! I broke it," he sobbed.

- A: The boy was crying because he broke his drum.
- B: The boy was shouting because he broke his drum.
- C: The boy was excited because he broke his drum.
- D: The boy was angry that he broke his drum.

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

- A: He sobbed so high that he felt like he was flying.
- B: I thought you sobbed because you had a big smile on your face.
- C: The boy was so sad that he sobbed.
- D: I sobbed so fast that I won the race.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Astonished **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "astonished" mean in the following sentences?

Robert looked astonished. "Boys don't wash clothes," he said.

- A: Amazed
- B: Shocked
- C: Excited
- D: Upset

Question: Which sentence below uses "astonished" in the same way that the passage does?

- A: She was astonished because she was sleepy.
- B: I was astonished with happiness.
- C: She was astonished that she won the contest, she was sure that she did good.
- D: He was astonished, that was the last thing he expected.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Delight **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does "delight" mean as used in this sentence? Imagine Robert's delight when he saw he had a new coat, a video game, and a new drum and drumsticks.

- A: Happiness
- B: Anger
- C: Sadness
- D: Disgust

Question: Which of the following sentences uses "delight" correctly?

- A: It was a delight that it rained all day, we could not go to the waterpark.
- B: That food was such a delight because it was so gross.
- C: It is always a delight to see you, it brings me so much happiness.
- D: It was a delight that you stepped on my drawing, now it is ruined.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Drumsticks **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "drumsticks" mean as used in these sentences from the passage? "I was beating it with the knives and-" "With the knives!" exclaimed his mother. "Where were your drumsticks?"

- A: Sticks used to cut things.
- B: Sticks used to play the drums.
- C: A type of ice cream.
- D: A part of a chicken.

Question: Which sentence uses the word "drumsticks" correctly?

- A: The drumsticks are used to build a campfire.
- B: The drumsticks are the best part of the chicken.
- C: I love to eat drumsticks they are the best type of ice cream.
- D: Drumsticks are a tool used for playing the drums.

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 - Robert's mother says "I have decided that there is another way you can show how careful you are. I want you to do the laundry every week for two months."

Explain how Robert doing the laundry would show his mother that he can take care of his toys.?

2 - Robert was "always losing things, and he did not take care of his toys or clothes."

In what ways was Robert breaking his drum and losing his drumsticks good for him??

3 - Robert "was careful with everything" after he started doing the laundry every week

What impact do you think that doing the laundry had on Robert when it comes to being responsible??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 300-word essay on the prompt below. Make sure to provide and explain at least 3 specific examples from the text that support the prompt.

How does this story demonstrate the importance of learning from your mistakes?

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