



A Lesson on The Red Apples by Mariah Jones

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, morals, vocabulary

Lesson Description: Through reading this story and completing the following activities, students will have learned new vocabulary, had discussions and answered questions to gain a deeper level of thinking from the story and will also write 1-2 paragraphs that will show their comprehension of the story and the underlining message of the story. The discussion questions will require students to think further than just the story and relate the scenario to their own life, while the writing assignment will require them to think about the effects their actions can have.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.7.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

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 Red Apples

by

Content: One windy day in March, Kitty Miller was on her way to school when she glanced into a store window and saw a great pile of lovely red apples. Oh, she exclaimed, how lovely! If only Mamma could have one!

Kitty's mother was extremely poor. She had been a dressmaker ever since Kitty's father died, and had to work hard to earn a living for herself and Kitty. Unfortunately, she had recently become very sick and was obliged to lie in bed all day long. When Kitty was away at school, the house was incredibly lonesome. She missed her little angel that is what she called Kitty. Kitty took great care of her mother. She cooked her food, mostly soup. They could not afford fresh fruit. Kitty would even sing to her mother at night.

When Kitty reached the school that day, her thoughts were full of her sick mother and the lovely red apples. She was usually an excellent student, but that day she made so many blunders that the teacher looked at her in surprise. The little girl could only sit at her desk, with her book before her, and dream of those red apples.

When school was dismissed, Kitty started slowly homeward. She had walked only a short distance when she saw a man in front of her drop his wallet. Running quickly forward, she picked it up. The wallet felt quite heavy in Kitty's little hand.

There must be a good deal of money in it, thought Kitty. How I wish I could keep it, so that I would then be able to purchase a red apple for Mamma, and so many other things she needs.

Kitty knew this would not be right, so she hurried after the man. Touching him on the arm, she said, Please, Sir, you dropped your wallet back there.

Thank you, dear, said the man taking the wallet. Then, noticing how poorly she was dressed, he said, Why did you not keep the wallet, my child?

Because that would be stealing, replied Kitty. But, she confessed honestly, before I thought I must give it back to you, I did wish I could keep it, for then I could buy Mamma a red apple.

The gentleman smiled kindly and said, You are a good little girl to return my wallet. I would like to give you a little present and then you can buy a red apple. He handed her a dollar and then said goodbye.

Kitty was so surprised that she started hastily for home, forgetting all about the red apples until she stood in front of the store. The store owner happened to look out and saw the same little girl who stood looking so longingly in at his window in the morning. He quickly picked out the biggest, roundest, reddest apple he could find. He took it out to Kitty and said, Would you like this one, my dear?

She took the apple and gave him the dollar. No charge, he said, returning it. She thanked him for my mother, and the good man thought of it for many a day. When Kitty reached home with her treasures, she found her mother fast asleep. She put the apple and dollar on a plate where her mother could see them when she awoke.

When Mrs. Miller was told the wonderful story, she kissed her little daughter and said, What have we learned from this wonderful day?

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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: Obligated **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the story says "Unfortunately, she had recently become very sick and was obliged to lie in bed all day long." What does the word obliged mean in this sentence?

- A: Wanted to
- B: Required to
- C: Thought about
- D: Liked to

Question: Which of the following sentences best uses the word "obliged"

- A: The car ride was long and obliged
 - B: While cleaning my room, I felt obliged to make a new mess.
 - C: After I tripped, I obliged and ran again.
 - D: I felt obliged to give my food to the homeless kitten.
- =====

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Hastily **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the story says, "Kitty was so surprised that she started hastily for home, forgetting all about the red apples until she stood in front of the store." What is the meaning of the word "hastily" in this story?

- A: Speedy
- B: Slight
- C: Impatient
- D: Thoughtless

Question: Which of the following sentences best uses the word "hastily"?

- A: The man whispered hastily.
 - B: The house looked hastily.
 - C: She slammed the door hastily.
 - D: The dog ate hastily.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Blunders **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of the story says, "She was usually an excellent student, but that day she made so many blunders that the teacher looked at her in surprise." What is the meaning of the word "blunders" in this sentence?

- A: Mistakes
- B: Blurted out
- C: Trips
- D: Accomplishments

Question: Which of the following sentences best uses the word "blunders" in a sentence?

- A: That was the student's second blunder of the day.
 - B: The sandwich was full of blunders.
 - C: While driving, the car made a lot of blunders.
 - D: The dog looked like blunders.
- =====

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Dressmaker **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story the author says, "She had been a dressmaker ever since Kitty's father died, and had to work hard to earn a living for herself and Kitty." What is the meaning of the word "dressmaker" in this sentence?

- A: A person who makes/alters dresses.
- B: A person who buys dresses.
- C: A person who designs dresses.
- D: Both A & C.

Question: Which of the following sentences best uses the word "dressmaker" in a sentence?

- A: The mother and daughter bought a dressmaker.
 - B: The boy wanted a dressmaker.
 - C: The dressmaker designed the perfect dress.
 - D: The model looked like a dressmaker.
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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 - Kitty has to take care of her mom because...?

In the story, it is said that Kitty has to take care of her mom because of her illness. Why do you think it is Kitty has to take care of her mother? Do you think Kitty is the right person to take care of her mother??

2 - Kitty thought about taking the lost wallet...

As we know from the story, Kitty picked up the wallet that was dropped by the man and thought about what it would be like if she kept it, yet she still decided to return it. What do you think you would have done if you were put in Kitty's situation??Why?

3 - The store owner saw Kitty twice that day...

The store owner saw Kitty twice that day and decided to give her the apple she had been admiring. Why do you think that Kitty still tried to pay the man with her last dollar even after he had already given the apple to her? What would you have done?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: At the end of the story, after Kitty tells her mom about her day, her mom asks her, What have we learned from this wonderful day??For this assignment write 1-2 paragraphs about what you think Kitty learned from her day between having a bad day at school, meeting the man who lost his wallet, and then receiving the free apple. Also include a comparison of her actions with the?consequences (good or bad) that they had.?

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