



A Lesson on The Difficult Journey by Melissa Fletcher

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Traveling

Lesson Description: This lesson provides the story of a family traveling and the obstacles they encounter.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

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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 Difficult Journey

by

Content: The wagon train left early this morning. I told my friends goodbye, since I would be staying here in Denver. We had been traveling for many months. It was June when we left St. Louis but it was October now. I would not stay with the wagon train any longer.

When we left St. Louis, we were very excited. We were going all the way to the ocean. We would go to California.

Then we had our first problem. The first day a wheel came off our wagon. It was cracked, and we could not fix it ourselves. We were not very far from St. Louis, so John rode back there on his horse. He came back with another wheel, but that took a day while the other families waited.

Then we ran into our second problema big rainstorm. It caused so much mud that the oxen pulling our wagons could not get the wagons to move. We had to wait for the rain to stop and the mud to dry. That meant we lost two more days.

We were tired and it had been just two weeks. Still, we kept on traveling. After the rainstorm cleared, we had to stop because the Brown family got ill. We waited a few days, but they gave up. They turned back around.

It was hard work every day, but we carried on. By the time we arrived in Denver, though, it was too much. We were going to leave the wagon train. That night we told the wagon master.

He asked us to change our minds. He told us, The worst is over now, but I knew it would not get any easier. The mountains we had just crossed were only the beginning. It had been such hard work to get where we are now. It would be even harder to reach the ocean. So we chose to remain here in Denver.

Today I have gone to look for a job. There are many jobs in the mines so I will take one of them. And we will get a home. I am glad that living in a tent next to the covered wagon is over. We will have a place where we can live.

Even though I will miss my friends, I will not miss all the troubles.

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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: After the rainstorm cleared, we had to stop because the Brown family got ill. **WordPhraseTier: 2**
Question: The author in our story says "After the rainstorm cleared, we had to stop because the Brown family got ill." What does the word "ill" mean in this sentence?

- A: Sick
- B: Upset
- C: Mad
- D: Happy

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "ill" correctly?

- A: The dog became very ill he chased all the seagulls on the beach.
- B: The dog became very ill and went outside and played.
- C: The dog was very ill and playful all day.
- D: The dog became very ill and had to go to the vet.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: It caused so much mud that the oxen pulling our wagons could not get the wagons to move.
WordPhraseTier: 3

Question: The author in our story says "It caused so much mud that the oxen pulling our wagons could not get the wagons to move." What does the word "oxen" mean in this sentence?

- A: Bird
- B: Giraffe
- C: Cow
- D: Pig

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "oxen" correctly?

- A: The oxen were small as a fly we could hardly see them.
- B: The oxen looked like cows in the fields of grass.
- C: The oxen had a lot of feathers and could fly.
- D: The oxen is used to clean the house.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: He asked us to change our minds. He told us, "The worst is over now," but I knew it would not get any easier. **WordPhraseTier: 2**

Question: The author in our story says "He asked us to change our minds. He told us, "The worst is over now," but I knew it would not get any easier." What does the phrase "The worst is over now" mean in this sentence?

- A: The hardest part has passed.
- B: The easiest part is over worst is to come.
- C: The easiest part has passed.
- D: The hardest part is about to come.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the phrase "He asked us to change our minds. He told us, "The worst is over now," but I knew it would not get any easier." correctly?

- A: The tornado is approaching, the worst is over now.
- B: We made it to the top of the mountain, the worst is over now.
- C: Climbing the mountain will be very hard, the worst is over now.
- D: The car ran out of gas, the worst is over now.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: By the time we arrived in Denver, though, it was too much. We were going to leave the wagon train. That night we told the wagon master. **WordPhraseTier: 3**

Question: The author in our story says "By the time we arrived in Denver, though, it was too much. We were going to leave the wagon train. That night we told the wagon master." What does the word "wagon master" mean in this sentence?

- A: Their friend on the wagon train.
- B: The individual in charge of the wagon train.
- C: The child on the wagon train.
- D: The individual they passed on the side of the road.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "wagon master" correctly?

- A: The wagon master is in charge of the wagon train.
- B: The wagon master is in charge of the school.
- C: The wagon master is in charge of the hospital.

D: The wagon master does not ride on the wagon train.

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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 did they decide to stay in Denver?

Why did they tell the wagon master that they decided to stay in Denver?

2 - Would you want to ride the wagon train? Why or why not?

After reading the story would you want to ride the wagon train? Why or why not?

3 - What are some obstacles you have encountered while traveling?

What are some obstacles you have encountered while traveling? Can they relate to the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on the negative and positive aspects of traveling. Make sure to provide specific examples from the story.

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