



A Lesson on Our Lemons by Ashley Simpson

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Critical Thinking

Lesson Description: Students will read the short story, A lesson on Our Lemons, first by themselves then with a partner. Students will have the practice of reading and writing. When finished reading the passage students will be asked to answer multiple choice vocabulary questions. This will help build vocabulary skills. Students will be asked to use critical thinking skills to answer discussion questions based on the passage. Students will have to re read the passage in order to answer these questions. Students will answer these questions on their own.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2a: Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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.

Our Lemons

by

Content: I got up early. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than 20 lemon trees. My father has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the lemon trees stay green all year round. We have a big grove of lemon trees.

My father says California grows the most lemons of any place in the world. Every day we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that big, they are ready to pick.

They still are green when we pick them. We put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and Sunday to get the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town with the lemons.

Once my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it would get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it. My father said, pick them when they're green and small. They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green.

Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates. Then they take them to the train station. They ship them with oranges they grow, too. They send them to far away places. By the time they get to where they are going, they turn yellow. There are people who buy them all over the world.

My mother says that lemons are great but not by themselves. She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right. But when he goes to the store he comes back with apples. Those apples grow in Washington state.

My mother says our kitchen has foods from many places. She likes to drink tea from China. She puts our lemons into it and some sugar. She says the sugar comes from Brazil. So there are three countries in that one cup.

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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: Promised **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school." What does the word "promised" mean in this sentence?

- A: To help
- B: To guide
- C: To assure
- D: To allow

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "promised" correctly?

- A: I promised an older women with her groceries.
 - B: I promised my mom I would do my chores before I watched television.
 - C: I told the cat to promised with his toys.
 - D: My cat is not promised to sit on the couch.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Big **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "We have a big grove of Lemons." The word big is used throughout the passage. What other word could be used instead of the word big?

- A: Tiny
- B: Medium
- C: Wide
- D: Giant

Question: Which sentence uses the correct use of the word big?

- A: The pizza did not taste big.
 - B: It was too big outside to swim.
 - C: The dog was too big to sit on my lap.
 - D: The car had a big sounding horn.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Delivers **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "He works at the post office.He delivers mail." What does the word "delivers" mean in this sentence?

- A: To buy
- B: To drive
- C: To bring
- D: To sell

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

- A: I delivers the food with sugar.
 - B: She delivers the lemons everyday at noon.
 - C: I delivers my bath with soap.
 - D: The dog delivers his food at dinner.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Grove **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees." What does the word "grove" mean in this sentence?

- A: A blanket of trees
- B: A herd of trees
- C: A flock of trees
- D: A group of trees

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "grove" correctly?

- A: The grove was made of dirt.
 - B: Those grove of trees have the same flowers on them.
 - C: The grove was too high to climb.
 - D: The dog grove all night.
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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 - "My mother says..."

My mother says our kitchen has food from many places. Is there any food or items in your house that is from another country??

2 - "We live in..."

We live in Southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the Lemon trees stay green all year round. ?What type of weather do you get where you live? What color are the trees during that time?

3 - "So there are..."

What do you think the author meant when he says?So there are three countries?in that one cup. Refer back to the text for answers.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Think about a time you promised someone you would help them. You are to write two paragraphs that must include 3-5 sentences in each paragraph.

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