



A Lesson on A Better Community by Svetlana Stevanovic

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Recycle ,environment, litter, neighbor, community

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to educate students on the importance of recycling and our environment. In this lesson, students mainly will be utilizing their reading and writing skills that they have been practicing to this point. The underlying meaning of this lesson is to show these students that a little bit of effort goes a long way when it comes to recycling and the environment. These students will read the story and will be able to write in their own words how they can make a difference in their community.

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.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.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.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3a: Identify and know the meaning of the most common prefixes and derivational suffixes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

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.3.4a: Use sentence-level context 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.

A Better Community

by

Content: My daughter brought a note home. I looked at the note and smiled. So we will have a recycling center, I said.

She started to explain why it is important to recycle. I know, I said, but I don't have time. She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic. We would put plastic in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the Recycle Center. She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out.

It seemed like a good idea. But then the bag got full. In one week we had filled it with empty plastic bottles.

My daughter said we should look at what we use. We are using too much plastic. So we looked for ways to use less plastic.

I told my neighbor about this. She liked the idea. She started keeping her plastic in a bag. We all went together to the Recycle Center on the first Saturday. We brought our plastic.

When we got there, we saw many bags. People had brought lots of trash. They brought paper and metal, too. Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle, said my neighbor.

When we were walking back from the Recycle Center, I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had adopted the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center.

I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.

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: Recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in this story stated "She started to explain why it is important to recycle. ?I know,? I said, but I don?t have time.

"What does the word "recycle" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To throw away things.
- B:** To save old material to make other new products from them.
- C:** To store old materials.
- D:** To sell old material.

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

- A:** I am going to recycle by keeping all my old water bottles.
- B:** I recycle by throwing away all my soda cans in the garbage.
- C:** I recycle by saving all my used plastic items in a separate box so that I can take it to the center.
- D:** I am going to recycle by throwing away all my old paper worksheets in the trash.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The Author in this story stated ?She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out. ?

In this sentence, what does the word "environment" mean?

- A:** The area where something or someone lives.
- B:** The place where garbage goes.
- C:** The place we recycle at.
- D:** The area where products are made.

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

- A:** I took my empty water bottles to the enviroment to be recycled.
- B:** My enviroment is my house and my neighborhood.
- C:** I throw away my trash in the enviroment.
- D:** My toys are made in the envoroment.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: neighbor **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the term "neighbor" mean ?

- A:** Your best friend
- B:** A family memeber
- C:** Your teacher
- D:** A person living near or next door to you

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

- A:** I carpool to school with my neighbor beacuse she lives in the house next door to mine.
- B:** My grandma is my neighbor, she lives 20 minutes away from me.
- C:** I live in Florida and and my neighbor Joe lives in New York.
- D:** My neighbor is my best friend, she lives five blocks away from me.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in this story says "People litter. But there was no litter today."

What does the word "litter" mean in this sentence?

- A:** When people save their old items.
- B:** When people throw trash in an open or public place such as a street.
- C:** When someone thows away their in the garbage can.
- D:** When people put their trash in a recycling bin.

Question: Please choose the sentence below that uses the word "litter" correctly.

- A:** I saw someone litter by throwing away thier empty soda can in the trash.

B: People litter by saving their old water bottles.

C: My Mom and I picked up all the candy wrappers off our street, our neighbors litter.

D: People litter by taking their trash to the recycling center.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Recycling center

The authors neighbor stated Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle. How can recycling become easier for you if you had a center in your community? If you already use the center to recycle, please describe how it has helped you recycle.

2 - Recycling

Using complete sentences, please explain two reasons why it is important to recycle.

1.)

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2.)

3 - Too much plastic.

The Author stated we are using too much plastic, in just one week they filled up a whole bag with empty?water bottles.

What is?one way that you could start to use less plastic in your life?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: In this writing activity please use the blank box below to write a 100 word minimal essay describing two ways that you and your family can recycle at home and one way that it can help the environment. Please make sure to include the products that you will be recycling (for example: plastic bottles and paper).

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