



## A Lesson on The Cloud by Hannah Benton

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** 5th Grade, Reading, Language Arts

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to allow students to practice their reading skills, writing skills, critical thinking skills and learn new vocabulary words while reading and re-reading the short story of "The Cloud." The students will be able to prove that they understood what they read by completing all activities.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

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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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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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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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

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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 Cloud

by

**Content:** One hot summer morning a little Cloud rose out of the sea and floated lightly and happily across the blue sky. Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought. The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields, while she herself floated on the morning breeze, hither and thither, without a care.

Oh, if I could only help the poor people down there! she thought. If I could but make their work easier, or give the hungry ones food or the thirsty a drink! And, as the day passed, and the Cloud became larger, this wish to do something for the people of earth was ever greater in her heart.

On earth it grew hotter and hotter; the sun burned down so fiercely that the people were fainting in its rays. It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor. Sometimes they stood and looked up at the Cloud, as if they were praying, and saying, Ah, if you could help us!

I will help you; I will! said the Cloud. And she began to sink softly down toward the earth.

But suddenly, as she floated down, she remembered something that had been told to her when she was a tiny Cloud-child, in the lap of Mother Ocean: it had been whispered that if the Clouds go too near the earth, they die. When she remembered this, she held herself from sinking, and swayed here and there on the breeze, thinking, thinking. At last, she stood quite still, and spoke boldly and proudly. She said, Men of earth, I will help you, come what may!

The thought made her suddenly marvelously big, strong, and powerful. Never had she dreamed that she could be so big. Like a mighty angel of blessing, she stood above the earth, and lifted her head and spread her wings far over the fields and woods. She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight; the trees and the grasses bowed

before her; yet all the earth-creatures felt that she meant them well.

Yes, I will help you, cried the Cloud once more. I will give my life for you!

As she said the words a wonderful light glowed from her heart, the sound of thunder rolled through the sky, and a love greater than words can tell filled the Cloud; down, down, close to the earth she swept, and gave up her life in a blessed, healing shower of rain.

That rain was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered. Over the whole countryside, as far as the rain fell, a lovely rainbow crossed the sky.

Soon that, too, was gone. But long, long afterward the men and animals the Cloud saved kept her blessing in their hearts. They remembered it every time they saw a rainbow.

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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:** Desolate **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Which word below best describes "desolate", in this sentence: "Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought."

- A: Pleasant
- B: Full
- C: Abandoned
- D: Lovely

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below used the word "desolate" correctly?

- A: It was a desolate wasteland except for some grazing sheep.
  - B: I was very desolated when I got an ice cream cone.
  - C: The ocean is very desolated because of all the fish.
  - D: Black Friday is desolate.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Deed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "deed" mean in this sentence: "That rain was the Cloud's great deed. People cheered."

- A: Lie
- B: Rest
- C: Failure
- D: Achievement

**Question:** Which sentence below uses "deed" correctly?

- A: We should expect each other to treat each other well, in word and in deed.
  - B: His deed ruined the entire group project.
  - C: She is spending her deed days since her retirement.
  - D: I enjoy having a deed as a pet.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Obligated **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "obliged" mean in this sentence: "It seemed as if they must die of heat, and yet they were obliged to go on with their work, for they were very poor."

- A: Make necessary
- B: Leave alone
- C: To be happy
- D: To delay

**Question:** Which sentence below uses "obliged" correctly?

- A: Sally went shopping to bring home an oblige.
  - B: The dog obliged with his favorite ball.
  - C: We are obliged to complete this question for credit.
  - D: Restaurants oblige when they refuse to serve you food
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Majestic **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "majestic" mean in this sentence: "She was so great, so majestic, that men and animals were awe-struck at the sight."

- A: Being ridiculous
- B: Having impressive beauty
- C: Unimpressive
- D: Basic

**Question:** What sentence below uses "majestic" correctly?

- A: Did you see the majestic leaves that fell from the trees this fall?
  - B: I feel majestic today.
  - C: The book we are assigned to read is majestic.
  - D: The Beartooth Mountains are majestic.
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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 the Cloud help the people?

The Cloud replied, Yes, I will help you, cried the Cloud once more. I will give my life for you!. What was the Cloud's motivation to help?

### 2 - If you were the Cloud in this passage...

If you were the Cloud in the short passage, what would you do? Would you help the people? Would you risk your life?

### 3 - Reflection on The Cloud

Please reflect on the passage of The Cloud, give me at least one example of a person helping you out when you needed it.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 500 word essay on one of the discussion questions. Make sure to provide specific examples, including one quote from the text, and new vocabulary. Please check your spelling, and grammar before submitting your answer.

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