



A Lesson on A New Day by Marielle Rankin

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Lesson for Fourth grade readers. Common core standards

Lesson Description: Classwork/homework Common Core reading lesson. This lesson is nice because it also gets students thinking about our government.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1b: Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) 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 New Day

by

Content: I visit my grandparents in Mississippi in the summers. It is hot there, but it is fun. And it was hot in Chicago, too. I liked the change. I listen to my grandfather tell stories about the way things were. He had met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He tells about the marches he joined. He tells about the changes he had seen.

My grandmother says to me, and my cousins, Your grandfather was a hero. He stood up for civil rights. It was dangerous. But he went to the marches. He was one of the first African Americans to register to vote in this county. At first I was so worried that I would start to cry if he was not home by nighttime. But I joined him. I marched, too.

My grandfather is humble, though. He doesn't take credit for being brave. He says,

It was Dr. King who was the hero. We all did it together. He was the man who brought all the change. He inspired the freedom marches.

When I went to last summer, my grandparents kept us busy. They took me, and my cousins into town every day. We would go door to door to check that people were registered to vote. If they weren't registered, we would ask if we could get them to register. If they said yes, then my grandfather would come to drive them to the office to register. Everyone said yes. So we got a lot of people to register.

When we came back to Chicago, there were signs all over about the election. It was exciting. My teacher said that this was an unprecedented time. Never before had an African American been nominated by a major political party to be President of the United States. I felt proud that I had been part of the election.

Then it was election day. We were watching the news on the TV. One by one the states were counting the votes and reporting who won. It was getting clear that Barack Obama was going to be elected.

At 9:00 pm, my grandfather called from Mississippi. He said, Jerome, now it is a new country. We have made the really big change. I heard my grandmother in the background. She was crying. I asked if she was sad. No, he said, those are tears of joy.

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: Hero **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "Your grandfather was a hero. He stood up for civil rights. It was dangerous. But he went to the marches." What does the word hero mean in this sentence?

- A: Someone everyone looks up to
- B: Bad Guy
- C: A thief
- D: A criminal

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "hero" correctly?

- A: My teacher saved someone from drowning. She is a hero.
- B: I ate a hero after lunch.
- C: The lamp is a hero.
- D: A rock in the river sits on a hero.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Nominated **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Never before had an African American been nominated by a major political party to be President of the United States. What does the word "nominated" mean in this sentence?

- A: Elected
- B: Put down
- C: Failed
- D: Gave up

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "nominated" correctly?

- A: As a class, we nominated Billy to be our class president.
- B: We nominated down the street for the fair.
- C: The car moved so fast it was nominated.
- D: The river was nominated down the stream.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Unprecedented **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "My teacher said that this was an unprecedented time. Never before had an African American been nominated by a major political party to be President of the United States" What does the word unprecedented mean in this sentence?

- A: Rarely ever happens
- B: Happens every day
- C: Happens once a week
- D: Happens once a year

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "Unprecedented" correctly?

- A: Mary ran 30 miles in 10 minutes- an unprecedented number.
- B: We were unprecedented waiting for the pizza.
- C: My alarm woke me up at an unprecedented time
- D: My dog eats like she is unprecedented

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Humble **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "My grandfather is humble, though. He doesn't take credit for being brave." What does the word humble mean in this sentence?

- A: Being modest.
- B: Bragging
- C: Showing off
- D: Spending a lot of money

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "Humble" correctly?

- A: Mary never shows off therefore she is humble
- B: Bob grows humble in his garden

C: Sadie eats humble every day

D: Tyler brags about his shoes. He is so humble

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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 are those "tears of joy"

Why do you think that grandma's tears were tears of joy?

2 - What do you think grandfather means.....

What do you think grandfather means by we have made the really big change?

3 - Do you think that grandpa...?

Do you think that the grandfather would have been a good president if he ran for election? Use information from the text to support your answer.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: What do you think are the features of a good president? Do they go to college? Are they nice or manipulative? Use examples from the text to support your answer. 500 word minimum.

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