



## A Lesson on Lexington by Haley Baker

**Grade Level:** Grade 8

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to have students utilize reading and comprehension skills to demonstrate a full understanding of the content provided to them. Reading and rereading the passage will allow the students to show what they know grammatically with sentence structure and word choice. In addition, they will draw parallels between the story and their own beliefs and experiences.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.3: Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5: Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1a: Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

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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.

### Lexington

by

**Content:** I remember it vividly. We were fighting for our freedom. There was a battle at Lexington, and the news of Lexington spread everywhere, producing wild excitement. My father and I got ready to join the new army. It was as if the world was different that day. Everyone would go to Boston to join the army. Imagine you were there.

Every village and every farmhouse helped to swell the number. Men came from all over, even from tiny towns. In Connecticut, an old man was plowing his field and proclaimed, This is my fight, too. He unyoked his oxen, left his plow in the furrow, and, leaping to his saddle, raced to join the army. Just picture what that was like.

Fiery Ethan Allen, at the head of his Green Mountain Boys, was eager to join us, but he stopped with his Green Mountain Boys to take over a fort. The soldiers did not expect them at all. Despite the fact that the Green Mountain Boys had not fought before, they were extremely brave, and the British gave up without a fight.

Day by day the army grew, until thirty thousand men were encamped around Boston, from Charlestown Neck to Dorchester. We were all terribly excited and determined. I was afraid, too, but I decided that I needed to remain strong and brave. Just imagine what it was like then.

The patriot leaders were beginning to grow impatient. It was now the middle of June, and they had decided the time had finally come to fight. They chose a place for the battle; the location selected was the highland on the Charlestown peninsula known as Bunker Hill. They chose the date of June 16th. How do you think we felt?

The battle of Bunker Hill was a great fight. Never in my life had I witnessed such bravery on behalf of so many men. No one gave up, everyone fought hard, and we all worked together. Although it was a struggle, we remained strong. I really believe that with that one battle, our nation was born. We all felt different after the battle of Bunker Hill. We were Americans. I hope you can experience the feelings that I felt then.

I can recall that great battle clearly, and I remember the ones after that as well. Although it took much longer than I had initially anticipated, it was well worth it. It was difficult, and I became exhausted, but then we won and freed our country. We were a new nation. Now, each year on the fourth of July, I remember those days and smile. I hope you do, too.

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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:** Vividly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** At the start of the reading the author says "I remember it vividly." What does the word "vividly" mean in this sentence?

- A: The feeling of recalling something particularly sad or depressing
- B: Creating or providing a clear and immediate mental picture
- C: Displaying a state of excitement and joy
- D: An adjective describing something vague

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

- A: As the point guard scored the winning basket for the championship game, I jumped up and down vividly.
- B: When I dropped the glass on the floor and it shattered I cried vividly for hours.
- C: The book I was reading vividly, was so good I couldn't put it down.
- D: The memories from high school come back to me so vividly every time I drive by the baseball field.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Swell **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "Every village and every farmhouse helped to swell the number." What does the phrase "helped to swell the number" mean in this sentence?

- A: It helps to lower the number
- B: It helps to keep the number the same
- C: It helps to increase the number
- D: It helps to ruin the number

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the phrase "helped to swell the number" correctly?

- A: The more goals we made helped to swell the number on the scoreboard.
- B: The more we worked on our homework the less it helped to swell the number of assignments left to do.
- C: As we argued it even helped swell the wound on my leg.
- D: The dog helped swell the number of dirty clothes in the laundry basket.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Proclaimed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author says "In Connecticut, an old man was plowing his field and proclaimed..." What does the word "proclaimed" mean?

- A: Declares something in the form of a question.
- B: Declares something in a monotone voice
- C: Declares something with an angered tone
- D: Declares something one considers important with due emphasis

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "proclaimed" correctly?

- A: I was so angry with my brother that I punched his arm in a proclaimed way.
- B: I got an A plus on the hardest test ever, the student proclaimed to the teacher!
- C: Sara proclaimed her lunch and told us no one could eat her food.
- D: The little boy fell and scraped his knee so proclaimed that he needed to go to the doctors.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Encamped **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "Day by day the army grew, until thirty thousand men were encamped around Boston..." What does the word "encamped" mean in this sentence?

- A: Taken by the enemy
- B: Forced to stay in one spot for a long period of time
- C: Settle in or establish a camp
- D: Watched heavily

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "encamped" correctly?

- A: The dishes started to pile up that I was so encamped from discouragement.
- B: The horse walked around the barn encamped because he had no water left.
- C: I was so hungry that I encamped the entire sandwich in three bites.
- D: The girls were encamped around the mall waiting for it to open.

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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 patriot leaders decide to wait so long to fight?

The author explains how patient the soldiers were and how long they were camped out waiting for the battle to begin. The text says The patriot leaders were beginning to grow impatient. It was now the middle of June, and they had decided the time had finally come to fight. Explain why the patriot leaders would have wanted to wait to fight especially if they were impatient.?

### 2 - Why might there be bravery displayed in the battle?

The narrator described his observances of the battle by saying Never in my life had I witnessed such bravery... In a negative event such as a battle killing many people, how is bravery displayed? What other emotions do you think could have been shown or felt during this time??

### 3 - What was a time when you felt extreme pride about an accomplishment?

The author says how although it took much longer than I had initially anticipated, it was well worth it. It was difficult, and I became exhausted...I remember those days and smile. When was a time something was difficult and exhausted but the end result was worth it??

### 4 - Why does the author say "We were fighting for our freedom."?

What does the author mean when he says We were fighting for our freedom.? What would a reason for people to be fighting for freedom be? Define the word freedom and what it means to you.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write a three paragraph essay with a clear beginning middle and end (350 words) that discusses one of two options. Choose to either describe was pride means to you in relation to our freedom in our country because of those who fought based off of what the author described. Or, tell about a time where you had to wait patiently for something important, like the patriots did, that forced you to work hard. Make sure to be specific and provide examples from the text.?

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