



A Lesson on Community Meeting by Emma Noonan-pomada

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Community meeting, alderman, community, ward, vote

Lesson Description: Students will read and reread the passage called "Community Meeting". Students will learn correct meanings of vocabulary words including, Alderman, Community meeting, vote, and Ward. Through discussions and the writing content, students will explore the importance of voting and community issues.

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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

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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.

Community Meeting

by

Content: At the meeting, one neighbor was shouting. I've had enough,"he said. This neighborhood has too many potholes. Other people?clapped. They agreed with the neighbor. There were potholes.

We cant fill in all the potholes until we know where they are,"said the Alderman. Please tell me when you see one. Then I promise?I will get it fixed. I need you to help me to help your community.

What about the snow plowing, a woman asked. No one came?to plow our street. We had to do it ourselves. We voted for you. You?need to help us. The Alderman answered. He said, There was so?much snow, that we could not get to the side streets quickly. But?they are going to try to do a better job next time. We know this is?important. We will fix it.

Lets talk about progress, the local librarian said. Are we?going to get the new library building?

I think we need a new park, first, said a parent.

A library is more important than a park, she answered.

No, its not. Youre wrong. Youre thinking about yourself.

Wait, now, said the Alderman. This ward belongs to everyone.?And both will help. We need the park. We need the library. And we?need more. Im trying to get it all. But were starting with the library.We dont have space for the books in the old one. We need a?computer area, too.

Im angry, the parent said. I wanted the park first. Im going?to vote for someone else to be alderman next time.?

Lets all work together, a teacher said. This is about what we?all need and want. We have a great community. Lets work together.?Everyone agreed. They clapped loudly. That is what we need to do,"said the alderman.

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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: Alderman **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the passage we just read, the author mentions "the Alderman". What is an Alderman?

- A: an old man
- B: an official position in town, who is selected by an election
- C: the owner of the town hall
- D: your dad

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

- A: The Alderman was elected by the townspeople and led the community meetings.
- B: Mary decided that she wanted to be the Alderman, so she was.
- C: the Alderman is the oldest person in the town.
- D: John beat up the old alderman, so now he is the Alderman.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Ward **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The Alderman says, "this ward belongs to everyone." What does the Alderman mean by the word ward?

- A: A divided area of a town or city, which votes and elects public officials for representation.
- B: A city.
- C: The community building.
- D: Your house.

Question: Which of the sentences below correctly uses the term "ward"?

- A: The ward was spread out over different areas of the city.
- B: The ward was old.
- C: The people who lived in the ward hosted a community meeting with thier Alderman to talk about local issues.
- D: The people were fighting a ward.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Community **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: This story i called "Community Meeting" and takes place at a meeting held by the community. What does community mean in this context?

- A: My dog is a community.
- B: A community is a group of people living in the same place, or having something in common.
- C: My bedroom is my community.
- D: A community is me and my friend.

Question: Which of the following sentences uses "community" correctly?

- A: The local community held a party at the new neighborhood center to celebrate its opening.
- B: I am a community.
- C: We went to the community.
- D: A community is a group of people who do not knwo each other and have nothing in common.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Vote **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: Towards the end of the passage, one of the community members at the meeting says, "I'm going to vote for someone else to be Alderman next time" What does vote mean?

- A: A choice which is usually shown by casting a vote in a ballot or by a show of hands. In an election, the person with the most votes wins.
- B: Getting hired for a job.
- C: Telling someone what you think.
- D: My opinion.

Question: The word "vote" is used correctly in one of the following sentences. Pick the one in which it is used correctly.

- A: When I yell about what I like I am voting.
- B: I support Barack Obama so I will vote for him in the presidential election.
- C: By telling bobby I do not like him I vote against him.
- D: Cheese snacks are not my favorite. I do not vote for them.

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 - School Community

If we were to have a community meeting here at school, what issues would you bring up? Why are they important?

2 - Vote

Why do you think that communities need to vote for their Alderman (and other representatives)?

3 - Working Together

Why do you think that working together is better than arguing? Do you think that we can get more done by working together?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to choose any of the community issues presented by your classmates in the discussion.? Write a letter to your Alderman (I will provide you with their names according to the ward you live in) about your issue and why you think it is a problem and what possible solutions you can come up with.? Give specific examples of why you think something is a problem.??

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