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A Lesson on Lincoln's Choice

by Tiffany Murray

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Consequently, Wandering, Strict, Nor

Lesson Description: The purpose of this lesson is to encourage kids to think about right and wrong decisions. This will give them the opportunity think about what they would do in a situation like the one described in the passage.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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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).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

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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.

Lincoln's Choice

by

Content: Abe Lincoln saved my life. We had been going to school together one year. The next year we had no school, because there were so few students to attend, there being only about twenty in the school the year before.

Consequently Abe and I had not much to do; but, as we did not go to school and our mothers were strict with us, we did not get to see each other very often. They knew there were dangers in the countryside. One Sunday morning my mother waked me up early, saying she was going to see Mrs. Lincoln, and that I could go along. Glad of the chance, I was soon dressed and ready to go. After my mother and I got there, Abe and I played all through the day. We were out in the hills near the river.

While we were wandering up and down the little stream called Knob Creek, Abe said: Right up there pointing to the east we saw a lot of blueberries there yesterday. Let's go over. We can bring a lot home.

The stream was too wide for us to jump across. We saw a foot-log and decided to try it. It was narrow, but Abe said, Let's do it. He was like that; he would take a chance if it was important to do something.

He went first and reached the other side all right. I went about half way across, when I slipped. He shouted, Don't look down nor up nor sideways, but look right at me and hold on tight! But I fell off into the creek and the water was about seven or eight feet deep. I could not swim, and neither could Abe. I was splashing and calling out.

So he got a stick and climbed out and held it out to me. I came up, grabbing with both hands, and he put the stick into my hands. I clung to it, and he pulled me out on the bank, almost dead. He got me by the arms and shook me well. Then he rolled me on the ground, and the water poured out of my mouth.

I was all right very soon. We promised each other that we would never tell anybody about it, and never did for years. My mother would have been so angry. I never told any one. But I can tell you now. He was a great problem solver even when he was a boy.

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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: Consequently **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The Author uses "Consequently" to describe their lack of activities. What would be a synonym for this word?

- A: Fortunately
- B: Unfortunatly
- C: Happyily
- D: Angrily

Question: Which phrase best uses the word "Consequently"?

- A: I love pizza, consequently i decided to order one for lunch.
 - B: I was prepared for the beach trip, consequently i didn't like the heat.
 - C: Consequently i was bored; but i had finished all my work early.
 - D: Consequently, i drove my car to the gas station when it got low on fuel.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Strict **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author described their mothers as being strict. What does the word strict mean in this passage?

- A: Stern
- B: Easy
- C: Fun
- D: Playful

Question: Choose the sentence that best uses the word 'Stern'.

- A: My teacher was strict and let us play games in the classroom.
 - B: The dress code was strict, i was only aloud to wear collared shirts.
 - C: The manager was strict in his employees; they were aloud to take as many breaks as they wanted.
 - D: She had a strict mom that let her watch whatever she wanted.
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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 do you think the mothers wouldn't let the boys play together all of the time?

The boys were never really able to play together, even when they weren't in school. After reading the passage, why do you think their mothers made that decision??

2 - What were the young boys in search of?

As the two boys were on their adventure what did they notice across the stream? Did they get what they were looking for??

3 - What kind of friend was Abe Lincoln?

The author of this story explains Abe as his best friend. What type of friend was Abe? And would you want to have a friend like him??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: At the end of the passage the boys chose not tell their mothers about what happened to them. Do you think that was a good idea? Why or Why not? Also do you think their mothers had good reasons to try and keep them apart? Why or Why not??

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