



A Lesson on The Cloud by Shelby Pellegrino

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Clouds

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to strengthen reading, comprehension, critical thinking and writing skills. By reading, and rereading this story, answering questions about important vocabulary and about the story itself, students will gain a higher understanding of sacrifice, and why the Cloud did what it did.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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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.5.1c: Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., consequently, specifically).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.6: With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.

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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 some thing 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.

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:** 3

Question: "Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought." What does the word "desolate" mean in this sentence?

- A: Swamp land
- B: Empty or bare land
- C: Heavily populated area
- D: Snowy, mountainous land

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

- A: The land is dry and desolate because of no rain for months.
- B: He was acting very desolate today.
- C: Let's go to the desolate store.
- D: My favorite color is desolate.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Suffering **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "The little Cloud could see the poor people of the earth working and suffering in the hot fields..." What does the word "suffering" mean in this sentence?

- A: Happiness and excitement
- B: A type of music
- C: Pain or hardship
- D: The temperature of the fields

Question: Which one of the following sentences uses the word "suffering" correctly?

- A: One of the fifty states is named Suffering.
- B: Suffering is my favorite genre of music.
- C: We had a lot of fun suffering at the amusement park.
- D: The war caused much suffering for the native people.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Obligated **WordPhraseTier:** 2

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

- A: To be required or bound to
- B: Happy
- C: The name of a town
- D: To cry

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

- A: The sun makes me feel so obliged!
- B: I was so sad, that I obliged.
- C: My mother and I are from Obligated.
- D: We are obliged to go to school Monday through Friday.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Drought **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Far below lay the earth: brown, dry, and desolate, from drought." What does the word "drought" mean in this sentence?

- A: Lack of rainfall
- B: The person who owns the land
- C: A town
- D: The name of the people in the story

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

- A: Drought is the person who owns the land.
- B: I grew up in a town called Drought.
- C: The drought grows in the Earth.
- D: This year's drought caused a lack of crops to grow.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Hesitation

Why did the Cloud hesitate to help the people?

2 - Sacrifice

Why do you think the Cloud changed its mind and sacrificed itself for the people rather than stay in the sky?

3 - Great Deed

That rain was the Cloud's great deed. Explain why the rain is such a great deed.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on what you would do if you were the Cloud. Would you sacrifice yourself for the people or would you remain in the sky? Make sure to provide specific examples.

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