



A Lesson on Changing Transportation Routes by Scott Cannistraro

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Changing Transportation Routes

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students will read a story. In reading the text, students will learn how to use context to determine the meaning of words. They will also be able to pull out further information by reading the story again. In their writing, students will write about the main idea of the story and provide specific examples from the text that steered them to their point of view.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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.

Changing Transportation Routes

by

Content: Every day before we go to school, our mother has to leave. She has to walk twelve blocks to get to the bus stop. Then she takes the bus to work. She is a commuter. But some days it is raining or snowing. We really think it's terrible that there isn't a bus that comes closer to our street.

At school, we learned about the city transit system. It includes buses, trains, and even trolleys. It is a public system. We have to pay for the rides, but the government pays a lot, too. The government gets its money from taxes. If you own your own car and drive to places, then you use private transportation.

I said to my mother, We pay taxes. This is a public transportation system. It is our system. It should come closer to our home. I do not want you to have to walk so far to get to the bus.

She agreed that would be great. But she said it would take more than one family to get the bus line to change. I said I would ask my teacher about it. We could do a study and maybe get a petition.

Our teacher had told us about service learning. That is a way of learning when you study something, learn something, and help make your community better. I thought that having the bus be more available to us would be a great way to do service learning.

My teacher liked the idea. He talked with the principal. They said we could do the study. So our class surveyed all our parents. How many of them had to walk how many blocks to the bus stop, we asked. How many would use the bus more if it was easier to get to.

We collected our survey data. Then we made a table. We found that 90% of all the parents would use the bus more if it was easier to get to. We also found that only 20% of the parents could get to it easily, just by walking five blocks. For all the others, it took between six and 12 blocks. My mother was one of the people with the longest walks to the bus.

We made a map. We showed how the bus route could be changed to reach people better in our community. We showed where it could stop. We looked at corners to make sure the bus could turn on different blocks. Then my teacher called the alderman. He asked the alderman if we could meet to talk about our study.

We met with the alderman. She was impressed. She said we had done a really good job of figuring out the problem and a solution. She promised she would talk with the head of the transportation system about it.

We thought that something would happen quickly, but it didn't. Just when we were giving up, our teacher got a call. It was from the transportation office. They said we were getting the change we asked for.

Now my mother only has to walk four blocks to get to the bus. So she can leave later. When she leaves in the morning, if it is raining or snowing, she always says, I am so glad you got the bus route changed.

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: Petition **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "We could do a study and maybe get a petition." What does the word "petition" mean in this sentence?

- A:** A solution to a problem.
- B:** A student loan.
- C:** A group of people.
- D:** A request made for something desired.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "petition" correctly?

- A:** That petition meets every week to play basketball.
- B:** Enough people signed the petition to have the nearby lake cleaned.
- C:** Without a petition, he wouldn't be able to attend college.
- D:** This is a petition to your problem.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Commuter **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "She is a commuter." What does the word "commuter" mean in this sentence?

- A:** A person who likes to talk often to other people.
- B:** A person who computes taxes for others.
- C:** A person who travels some distance to work on a regular basis.
- D:** A person who doesn't like to vote.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "commuter" correctly?

- A:** As a commuter, she is always talking to others.
- B:** The average commuter travels the same way to work each day.
- C:** Amy doesn't like to give her opinion because she is a commuter.
- D:** I have decided to use the services of a commuter because my taxes are too hard to calculate on my own.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Surveyed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "So our class surveyed all our parents." What does the word "surveyed" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To look at or examine carefully and appraise.
- B:** Talked about.
- C:** To look over.
- D:** To deliver to.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "survey" correctly?

- A:** John surveyed his parents often when he was with his friends.
- B:** We surveyed the workers to get a better understanding of their views.
- C:** He surveyed the book his mother picked up for him at the library.
- D:** She surveyed the news to her parents.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Alderman **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "He asked the alderman if we could meet to talk about our study." What does the word "alderman" mean in this sentence?

- A:** An older man in the community.
- B:** A math teacher.
- C:** A church priest.
- D:** A member of a city government.

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "alderman" correctly?

- A:** The mass was given by the alderman.
- B:** The alderman lived at the nursing home.
- C:** Our local alderman was able to forward our issue to the city council.
- D:** We went to the alderman with our math question.

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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 - How many blocks away?

Before the transportation route was changed, how many blocks did the kid and his mother have to walk to get to the bus stop? How many blocks do they have to travel now to get to the bus stop?

2 - What percentage of the parents wouldn't use the bus more?

When collecting the initial data, what percentage of the parents wouldn't use the bus more, if the bus was easier to get to? Now that the bus stop is closer, do you think they will change their mind? If so, why?

3 - We collected our survey data.

The first sentence of the seventh paragraph reads, We collected our survey data. We is referring to who in the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 250 words essay on what is the main idea of the story you just read. ?Make sure to provide at least two specific examples from the story that led you to this conclusion.

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