



## A Lesson on Making Progress by Lucy Jones

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Writing, A Lesson on Making Progress

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to apply their reading and writing skills they have acquired throughout the year to provide them with a lesson on the importance of keeping our community a cleaner and healthier place. This lesson will also allow for students to think deeper into accomplishing their individual goals. It will give them a greater understanding that some goals can take a lot of time and patience to accomplish but they can start by doing small acts that can eventually progress into something greater. When combined with writing about the passage, students will learn that they can make a difference too.

### 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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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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.

### Making Progress

by

**Content:** I have lived in Lawndale for thirty years. I have seen many things change. Some have been for the better and some for the worse. My neighborhood is a good one. I have friends here and my family lives here. My mother's home is two blocks away. My cousins live down the street.

Progress starts with hope. That's something I learned a long time ago. You can look at things and complain. Or you can ask, What can we do to make things better?

My son came home from school in August with a plan. It was a plan his class made. They were going to turn a vacant lot into a garden. I said it would be a lot more work than he knew.

He had a dream. He wanted to have lots of flowers in Lawndale. He knew there were some vacant lots. But he also saw the new buildings. He said, we are making progress. We should help. If we turn the vacant lot across from the school into a garden, it will show everyone how much we care. And then more people will plant flowers and trees, so the community will get to be a really beautiful place.

I admired my son's idea. He has always been a thoughtful child. I said we would help.

His class started by clearing out the trash from the lot. They needed lots of trash bags for that because they didn't just clear the lot. They cleaned trash from the street, too. People came by and saw the difference they made. I noticed after that people were not littering so much. It seems they got the idea that keeping things clean is not as hard as picking up all the trash if you litter a lot.

Then they put bulbs in the ground. I think they planted about 500 bulbs. I helped, and I think I planted about 30 bulbs myself. This spring we'll see them flower. I think that everyone in the community will be inspired.

A long time ago, someone said, It takes a village to raise a child. I think it takes a child to inspire a community. I am proud of my son.

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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:** Vacant **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "If we turn the vacant lot across from the school into a garden, it will show everyone how much we care." What does the word "vacant" mean in this sentence?

- A: Empty
- B: Full
- C: Used
- D: Busy

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

- A: My house is vacant inside because we have a lot of furniture in every room.
  - B: My grandparents moved into a new house, so their old house is currently vacant.
  - C: The grocery store is vacant because there is tons of people and food products inside.
  - D: My school is vacant during the school year.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Admired **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says, "I admired my son's idea." What does the word "admired" mean in this sentence?

- A: Happy
- B: Dislike
- C: Angry
- D: Respect

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "admired" correctly?

- A: I admired my friends hard work on her math homework.
  - B: Lauren admired Suzy when she got sent to the principals offices for hitting her.
  - C: Bill admired Amy when she got caught taking food from his lunch box without permission.
  - D: Birds are admired by dogs because they can fly.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Bulb **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says "Then they put bulbs in the ground." What does the word "bulb" mean in this sentence?

- A: Something that gives off light
- B: A metal stick
- C: An underground plant stem
- D: A glass jar

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "bulb" correctly?

- A: The telephone pole has bulbs poking out of it.
  - B: Alex threw the bulb to Justin during their baseball game so they could strike the other team out.
  - C: Sarah eats her cereal out of a blue glass bulb every morning before school.
  - D: Cathy planted a few bulbs in the ground so that they will grow into beautiful flowers.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Inspire **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says "I think it takes a child to inspire a community." What does the word "inspire" mean in this sentence?

- A: Leave alone
- B: Stop
- C: Decrease
- D: Motivate/ lead

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

- A: Lily inspires me to disobey my parents.
  - B: Watching movies on recycling inspires me to recycle more at home.
  - C: My dog inspires my cats to eat and drink.
  - D: When I am on the playground, I inspire a lot because it's so hot outside.
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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 - What was the son's plan?

What was the goal of the son's plan that he brought home from school? What sentence is the main point of this scene?

### 2 - A lot of work

Why did the father tell his son that his plan was a lot more work than he knew? Did his father have doubts that his son would be able to do/succeed at this plan? Was the son and his class supported on their plan?

### 3 - Results of project

In the last paragraph, the author says I think it takes a child to inspire a community. I am proud of my son. What were the results of this project? Explain what is meant by those two sentences.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For your writing assignment, what is one way you can inspire your community to create a more cleaner and healthier environment? (For example, recycling, no littering, picking up trash, car pooling, etc). In 1-2 paragraphs (75 words minimum) explain the process and plan you will use to encourage the members in your community. Submit your assignment using the box below.

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