



A Lesson on My Job by Devon Alter

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: critical thinking, explaining, discussion based, passage, reading, academic words

Lesson Description: During this lesson students will be reading a passage and then answering questions that will test them on a variety of common core skills. These include determining the meaning of words from the text that they may not be familiar with, responding to questions to determine understanding of the text, as well as explaining their own ideas in detail.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.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.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

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.

My Job

by

Content: I am a worker at the department of streets and sanitation. We take care of the streets, and the sewers, too. I go to work at midnight and I work for 8 hours. It took me a while to get used to working at night, but now I'm used to it.

Most people work during the day. They can get their job done then. Their workplace closes at night. That's called business hours. They don't have to be there to take care of things. Sewer workers have to be available 24 hours a day. You can't close our office, because someone always has to be on duty. If a sewer breaks in the middle of the night, we have to fix it then. If we don't fix it right away, the problem will get worse.

One night I was on duty and there was a problem in a community. I got a call from a homeowner, and she said that the sewer was broken. I asked her how she knew. She said there was dirty water coming back up into their street.

I didn't go to fix the problem. That's not my job. My job is to identify a problem and then figure out how to solve it. She told me about the problem. Then I looked at the map on the computer. It showed that she was right. We have sensors under the street that tell us when there is a leak. They show where it is.

I sent a team to fix the problem. Some of them were on duty. Others were off duty. I called them at home and asked them to meet the team at her street. They had to close the street for several hours while they fixed it. First they dug a hole to get to the sewer. Then they found the leak. After that they had to replace a part of the pipeline. That took a lot of work, but they got it done.

Most nights it is not that difficult to do my job. But when we have a problem, we have to get it solved right away. So that's why I'm on night duty.

My wife is a police officer. She works nights, too. She and I both know it's important to have people on duty 24 hours every day. We make sure that when you wake up in the morning the city is safe and healthy.

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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: Identify **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the passage says "My job is to identify a problem and then figure out how to solve it." What does the word identify mean in this sentence?

- A: Find the problem
- B: Make a problem
- C: Avoid a problem
- D: Ignore a problem

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "identify" in the same way as it is used in the passage?

- A: Identify is an issue I have.
 - B: She was identified with her husband often.
 - C: I was supposed to identify what the sun does for the plant.
 - D: I identified with my friend Johnny.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Difficult **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the passage the author says "Most nights it is not that difficult to do my job." What does difficult mean in this sentence?

- A: Hard
- B: Easy
- C: Wrong
- D: Fun

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "difficult" in the same way that it is used in the passage?

- A: She ran difficult in the race.
 - B: This test is not very difficult.
 - C: Her eyes looked difficult today.
 - D: He was being very difficult.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Leak **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the passage the author says "We have sensors under the street that tell us when there is a leak." What does the word leak mean in this sentence?

- A: When something slips through a solid surface.
- B: A part on a tree.
- C: A type of vegetable that is green.
- D: To escape from a prison.

Question: Which one sentence below uses "leak" in the correct way?

- A: I put a leek in my soup.
 - B: There was a leak in the pipe.
 - C: I had to leak through the bars.
 - D: I looked at the leak on the tree.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Sensor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of the story says "We have sensors under the street that tell us when there is a leak." what does the word sensors mean in this sentence?

- A: Identifiers
- B: People
- C: Rocks
- D: Flags

Question: In which of the sentences below is "sensors" used in the same way as in the passage?

- A: As a TV sensor she made sure TV was ready for the right ages.
 - B: The scientists checked the sensors in the field for new information.
 - C: Jane Sensor was a new member of the team.
 - D: Sensor was a strange name for a dog.
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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. Be sure in your responses to agree or disagree with what your peer has said and give reasons supporting your opinion.

1 - The author says If a sewer breaks in the middle of the night, we have to fix it then. If we don't fix it right away, the problem will get worse.

The author says If a sewer breaks in the middle of the night, we have to fix it then. If we don't fix it right away, the problem will get worse. After reading the passage and seeing what kind of problems he fixes, give a detailed response for why sewer workers must fix a problem and what could happen if said problem is not fixed.

2 - The author says "Most nights it is not that difficult to do my job. But when we have problem, we have to get it solved right away..."

What could the author be implying about his skill at his job by including this sentence? Most nights it is not that difficult to do my job. But when we have problem, we have to get it solved right away. So that's why I'm on night duty.

3 - The author says "My wife is a police officer. She works nights, too. She and I both know it's important to have people on duty 24 hours every day..."

The author says My wife is a police officer. She works nights, too. She and I both know it's important to have people on duty 24 hours every day. We make sure that when you wake up in the morning the city is safe and healthy. Besides the author's job and his wife's job as a police officer what are some other jobs you could think of that need to be available 24 hours a day?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 3 paragraph essay on this next question.?

The author and his wife both work and are active at nighttime, think about how you and your families life would be different if you did everything you did now at nighttime? Would you have to plan out trips to the store when it was open? Would you need to make plans in advance???Make sure to provide specific examples.

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