



## A Lesson on The Astronaut's Diary by Jaclyn Manning

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Space, Critical thinking

**Lesson Description:** Read the short story called "The Astronaut Diary" answer vocabulary questions, followed by a class discussion leading to the final writing assignment.

### 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.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.

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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.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1b: Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.3a: Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

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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 Astronaut's Diary

by

**Content:** We were exhausted from all the work. We slept in shifts. One of us had to be awake all the time. There was so much work to do.

Finally, we got to our destination. We had reached the space station. There, we would do more work, but we would have less pressure. We had so much to do every day on our ship. Now there would be more people to help us. We would be on a collaborative team. We would be able to share the work.

When we moved into the space station, I felt great. There was so much more space. We would have real beds to sleep in. We would have better food. They had a garden on the space station. They grew vegetables.

The six astronauts on the space station were happy to see us. They said, We have been waiting for you. We were glad to see them, too. We had been worried. We heard that one of them had been sick.

We asked how she was feeling. She said she was better now. It had been a cold. We were relieved. We could stop worrying now.

That first night on the space station was great. We had good food. We had a good dinner. Then we were going to sleep. But one of the astronauts said, We need to give you a job. Each person has to take turns staying awake. Here is the schedule. So I had a shift again.

I saw I was first. I would have to stay awake tonight. I was disappointed. I felt fatigued. I had been awake and working for 20 hours. But I knew it was my duty. So I sighed and said, See you in the morning.

I became an astronaut so that I could travel in space. Now I'm here. It is hard work. It's even more challenging than I expected.

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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:** Fatigued **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the sentence the author said "I felt fatigued" what did the author mean by fatigued?

- A: Tired
- B: Lazy
- C: Excited
- D: Funny

**Question:** Choose the sentence that uses the word fatigued correctly?

- A: My homework was fatigued.
  - B: After a long day I was fatigued.
  - C: The school was fatigued.
  - D: My grandmother turned fatigued last month.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Destination **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** When the author says "Finally, we have reached our destination." What does the author mean by destination?

- A: A planet
- B: The name of their space ship
- C: The place you are traveling to
- D: A type of vegetable

**Question:** What sentence is the word destination used correctly?

- A: We hoped in our destination and drove to the store.
  - B: I threw my dirty clothes in the destination.
  - C: After a long plane ride I finally reached my destination.
  - D: We baked an apple destination today.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Relieved **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What is meant by the word relieved in this sentence from the story "We were relieved."

- A: We were worried
- B: We were sad
- C: We were mad
- D: we were happy

**Question:** In what sentence was the word relieved used correctly?

- A: We relieved the car.
  - B: My mom relieved the pizza.
  - C: I was relieved to have passed the test.
  - D: My bus driver relieved the bus.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Grew **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the sentence "They grew vegetables." What does the author mean by grew?

- A: Got bigger
- B: Hide
- C: Got smaller
- D: Watched

**Question:** In which sentence is the word grew used correctly?

- A: The car grew after we put gas in.
  - B: The tree grew and reached towards the sun.
  - C: The fence grew when it rained.
  - D: The ball grew when i threw it.
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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 - When the author says "We were exhausted from all the work"

What kind of work do you think the astronauts have to do?

2 - In the story the author says "I became an astronaut so that I could travel through space"

While traveling through space what are some things you could see?

3 - Finally, we arrived at our destination. We had reached the space station.

What do you think a space station looks like?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here?250 words essay on what it would be like to travel through space?.... Make sure to provide specific examples.

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