



## A Lesson on The Lost Dog by Marissa Delaney

**Grade Level:** Grade 6

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Vocabulary, Reflection, Critical Thinking, Close-Reading, Lost Dog, Theme, Life Lessons

**Lesson Description:** For this particular lesson, students will improve their reading comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, and critical thinking skills. The entire class will first participate in what is called a "cold read" where the teacher reads the passage aloud and students follow along using their own copy of the story. Following the "cold read," the students will read the short passage individually and complete the following questions. By participating in a second "close read" of the story, students are able to focus on what the author is trying to say and his/her purpose of writing the story.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1b: Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

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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 Lost Dog

by

**Content:** One particularly cold Saturday in January, I was supposed to take our dog out for a walk, but it was so cold that I didn't want to go outside. Instead, I just opened the door and let the dog out by himself. I kept an eye on him to make sure he would come back inside.

However, another neighborhood dog quickly ran past our house, and our dog sped after it to catch him. I hurriedly went to grab my coat so I could follow my dog, and then I rushed outside. Unfortunately, I was already too late, and my dog was nowhere in sight. I walked a few blocks, but I was unable to find him.

Distressed, I returned home. My mother was standing at the door waiting, and she asked me what had happened. I know I was supposed to walk our dog, I confessed, but I thought he would be able to go outside and come back by himself. Now he's gone and I can't find him anywhere.

My mother was very angry with me; she said I should have been more responsible. She decided to help by making some signs. The signs read, Lost: A big black dog. Please call us right away and she printed our phone number on the bottom. Okay, Darrell, she said, as she handed over the stack of signs, now go post these fliers on all the street posts.

My sister and I grabbed the signs and we posted them along our street as well as along the surrounding streets. The whole time, I was incredibly sad and worried about our dog. All I could think about was how cold it was and how cold our dog must be. My sister wanted to go home, so I told her I'd walk her home, but then keep looking for the dog myself. I took her home and resumed search.

I continued circling the neighborhood, looking for our dog, but I didn't see him anywhere. I called out his name, and I looked in all the alleys. I got more and more upset. I had made such a huge mistake. All I wanted was to stay warm, but now I was extremely cold and so was my dog.

Finally, I gave up and sulked home. When I returned, my mother was waiting for me and smiling broadly. She told me, Our dog came back home all by himself. So, you were right he did come back but you were wrong, too. You should have done your job this morning.

You're right, mom. I was wrong, and, as a result, I have learned a very important lesson today. What seems easy initially may turn out to be difficult in the end. This was a very difficult morning for everyone.

Ever since that morning, I have remembered that important lesson I learned.

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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:** distressed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the story, the author says, "Distressed, I returned home." What does the word "distressed" mean?

- A: Sorrow or sadness
- B: Happy or excited
- C: Hurt or injured
- D: Brightly colored

**Question:** Please pick the correct sentence using the word "distressed."

- A: My new socks are distressed.
- B: I'm so distressed at her leaving, I don't even want to think about it.
- C: When the boy's dog finally appeared, he was extremely distressed.
- D: My parents were distressed after I showed them the A on my report card.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** sulked **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author of the story said, "Finally, I gave up and sulked home." What does "sulked" mean in this sentence?

- A: To run
- B: To be loud and energetic
- C: To dance
- D: To be silent out of disappointment

**Question:** Pick the sentence that correctly uses the word "sulked."

- A: I sulked on the way to the car after my team lost the championship game.
- B: My family sulked when we opened gifts on Christmas morning.
- C: I sulked through the finish line to win the race.
- D: Every afternoon at dance class I practiced how to sulk.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** initially **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** During a conversation with his mother, the author says, "What seems easy initially may turn out to be difficult in the end." What does the word "initially" mean in this sentence?

- A: Beginning letters of your first and last name
- B: Immediately
- C: At first
- D: Finally

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

- A: I have to make sure I initially write my name on the top of every homework paper.
- B: When I fell and scraped my knee, I initially got a band-aid.
- C: After receiving an A on her exam, she did better than she initially thought.
- D: After climbing the mountain for what seemed like hours, I initially got to the top.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** lesson **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In the story about The Lost Dog, the author uses the word "lesson." When the author says, "I was wrong, and, as a result, I have learned a very important lesson today," what does the word "lesson" mean?

- A: A joke
- B: A friend
- C: A rule
- D: Something useful about life

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

- A: My lesson showed up late to pick me up
- B: The class clown told a hilarious lesson
- C: The boy was arrested for breaking the lesson
- D: Today the lesson taught me how to study effectively

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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 - Good Idea vs. Bad Idea

Do you think it was a good idea for the author to let his dog run outside without a leash? Why or why not? (Use textual evidence to support your claim).

### 2 - Responsibility

Why do you think the author's mother made him and his sister create signs to find their lost dog? What do you think she was trying to teach them?

### 3 - Lesson Learned

What did the author mean when he said, What seems easy initially may turn out to be difficult in the end? (Use textual evidence to support your claim).

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** In the short story, the author says, I was wrong, and, as a result, I have learned a very important lesson today. What was the lesson the author learned? Make sure to provide specific examples to support your claim.

Next, think about a time in your life where you had to also learn a very valuable lesson. Who was involved? What happened? How did everything turn out? Include details and emotions on how you felt, much like what the author of The Lost Dog did when he discovered his dog was missing.

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