



A Lesson on John's Bright Idea by Mandy Beverly

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: John's Bright Idea

Lesson Description: In this lesson you will read a passage about a boy that is in need of assistance. After reading the passage twice you will answer questions involving vocabulary from the passage, respond to three discussion questions and reply to at least two peers, and lastly you will write a 500 essay that corresponds with the prompt.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.1: Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4a: Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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.

John's Bright Idea

by

Content: This is an old story. It was written 100 years ago. So you will find it has a different style from stories people read and write today. For example, you'll read that the children sell popcorn for 5 cents a bag and are thrilled. Today, that's not enough money to buy much.

Mrs. Meredith was a most kind and thoughtful woman. She spent a great deal of time visiting the poor. She knew they had problems. She wanted to help them. She brought food. She brought medicine, too.

The family lived in a small community with some people who were poor and others who were rich. In the town, some people worked but others had no jobs, and families needed money to pay their bills. Some families were poor because the parents had lost jobs, and the economy was in decline. People tried to help each other meet these challenges.

One morning she told her children about a family she had visited the day before. There was a man sick in bed, his wife, who took care of him and could not go out to work, and their little boy. The little boy--his name was Bernard--had interested her very much.

I wish you could see him, she said to her own children, John, Harry, and Clara, he is such a help to his mother. He wants very much to earn some money, but I don't see what he can do.

After their mother had left the room, the children sat thinking about Bernard. I wish we could help him to earn money, said Clara. His family is suffering so much.

So do I, said Harry. We really should do something to assist them.

For some moments, John said nothing, but, suddenly, he sprang to his feet and cried, I have a great idea! I have a solution that we can all help accomplish.

The other children also jumped up all attention. When John had an idea, it was sure to be a good one. I tell you what we can do, said John. You know that big box of corn Uncle John sent us for popping? Well, we can pop it, and put it into paper bags, and Bernard can take it around to the houses and sell it.

When Mrs. Meredith heard of John's idea, she, too, thought it a good one. Very soon, the children were busy popping the corn, while their mother went out to buy the paper bags. When she came back, she brought Bernard with her.

In a short time, he started out on his new business, and, much sooner than could be expected, returned with an empty basket. Tucked into one of his mittens were ten nickels. He had never earned so much money before in his life. When he found that it was all to be his, he was so delighted he could hardly speak, but his bright smiling face spoke for him. After he had run home to take the money to his mother, John said, We have corn enough left to send Bernard out ever so many times. May we do it again?

Yes, said Mrs. Meredith, you may send him every Saturday morning, if you will pop the corn for him yourselves. John, will you agree to take charge of the work?

Indeed I will, replied John, and he kept his word. For many weeks, every Saturday morning, no matter what opportunities there were to play, he saw that the corn was all popped, the paper bags filled, and arranged in the basket when Bernard arrived.

People began to watch for the little pop-corn boy, and every week he had at least fifty cents to take home, and often significantly more, income that supported his family. All of this was because of the way John carried out his bright idea.

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.

Vocabulary

Assist

Solution

Significant

Economy

?

?

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Assist **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "We really should do something to assist him." What does assist mean?

A: Hurt

B: Help

C: Hinder

D: None of the above

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

A: I assisted Joe while cleaning his room, I watched from the doorway.

B: I assist that you take your seat when you come in to class.

C: Can you assist me with my homework?

D: None of the above

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Solution **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "We really should have a solution that we can all help accomplish" What does the word "solution" mean?

A: A chemical

B: Answer to a problem

C: An idea of how to help

D: Both B and C

Question: Which one of the following sentences uses the word "solution" correctly?

A: There are five solutions in test tubes on the science counter.

B: I can solution my hair in different ways.

C: I have a solution to the problem you were having.

D: None of the above

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Significant **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "and every week he had at least 50 cents to take home and often significantly more" What does the word significantly mean?

A: Money

B: Less important, not priority

C: Great and worthy of attention

D: None of the above

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "significant" correctly?

A: The lesson has a significant meaning to what we are learning.

B: I gave her my significant address.

C: The significant plane landed at the air port.

D: All of the above

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Economy **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Some families were poor because the parents had lost job and the economy was in a decline" What does the word "economy" mean?

A: The world

- B:** The way in which goods and services are made, sold, and used.
- C:** A community
- D:** The ecosystem

Question: Which one of the following uses the word "economy" correctly?

- A:** The stock market is down, our economy is in danger.
 - B:** I am going to the economy this weekend.
 - C:** Me and my friends live near one another, in the same economy.
 - D:** None of the above
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: ?Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why does John continue to help Bernard?

Towards the end of the passage the author mentions that John continued to help Bernard. John would make sure that all of the corn was popped and bagged before going outside to play in the afternoon. Why do you think John continued to help Bernard??

2 - Why does Bernard's family need assistance?

Bernard is is selling popcorn with the assistance of a nice family in his neighborhood. Our passage states that Bernard's family is in need of money and assistance. Why is Bernard's family in need?

3 - "This is an old story. It was written 100 years ago"

Use evidence from the passage to explain why the author of the chose to inform the readers how long ago the passage was written.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here a 500 word?essay on how you can relate to this reading passage. Have you or your family ever helped a person or family in need? If so, explain how you or your family helped. If not, choose a topic or issue that you would like to assist with and explain how you would help out.?Make sure to provide specific examples from your experience and from the reading passage.

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