



## A Lesson on See Our Progress in Relation to STEM Biology by Justin Carruth

**Grade Level:** Grade 8

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Writing, Comprehension, Project, Progression

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to allow the students to begin to understand the importance of progressing through a project. The students will read and reread the passage to gain an understanding of the project that was completed within this passage. The students will closely read the passage to ensure that they understand the passage, and they understand the vocabulary words that are pulled out of the passage to ensure comprehension. The students will also have a time for discussion over the passage to ensure further comprehension is occurring. Finally, there will be a writing portion of this assignment that will allow students to answer a question that will help deepen their understanding of the passage that relates to progressing through a project.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.1: Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1b: Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.2d: Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.4a: 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.

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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.

### See Our Progress

by

**Content:** My school appeared on the news last week because we had made an important change in our community. Our 8th grade class had planted a large garden in what was

once only a vacant lot. It was a lot of work, it took much cooperation and many weeks, but it was all worth it. I got blisters from digging, and we all got insect bites, too.

I learned a lot about gardening and collaboration, and then I learned about the media. This experience taught me a great deal about television news. First, our teacher telephoned the TV station and informed them of what we had accomplished. She spoke with the producer the person who assigns reporters to cover interesting stories.

I never knew how people get on the news, I didn't know you could call and tell the TV station about your school. The producer checked with the directors, but they claimed there were plenty of stories similar to ours. They wanted to know what was special about our particular garden, since many schools plant them.

The teacher explained that, after going on the Internet to learn about the prairie, we had made a prairie garden. We had gone to a prairie and gotten seeds from the plants, and then we planted them. We did not water the garden, but we did weed it. We decided to let nature water it with rain, since that was how prairies grew in the past. We sent a picture of the garden to the news station. In the picture, the grass was so high that it stood taller than the fourth grade students.

The director thought our story would be interesting because it was not just a garden, but a history lesson. Actually, it was also a science lesson. As a result, they sent a reporter to our school, and that reporter also brought a cameraman. The security guard helped them carry the equipment into the building.

They interviewed the principal and asked detailed questions about the garden whose idea was it, what did it cost, how big was it, and how big did we plan it would be expanding it? After that, they interviewed us, and we explained to them what we had learned through this project. They even interviewed a person on the street and asked what he thought about our garden.

They were at our school for two hours, and it was exciting, so we were really ecstatic. That night, we watched the news, and there we were. The news anchor told our story. It was only two minutes long, but it was us. We were famous. All that work, all those blisters, it was worth it, we knew that when we saw the garden every day, but now we knew that the whole city thought so, too.

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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:** Collaboration **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says, "I learned a lot about gardening and collaboration.." What does the word "collaboration" mean in this sentence?

- A: To work with various plants.
- B: How different plants grow
- C: How to work with others on the project
- D: How to talk with the news media

**Question:** Which one of the following sentences uses the term, "Collaboration" correctly?

- A: What planting a tomato plant, there must be a lot of collaboration with the tomato.
  - B: There was a lot of collaboration between individuals when deciding what type of garden to make.
  - C: The collaboration with the plant helped it grow.
  - D: The news media's collaboration showed the plants.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Particular **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our story says, "They wanted to know what was special about our particular garden, since many schools plant them." What does the term "particular" mean in this sentence?

- A: Specific
- B: It is a type of garden
- C: A way to part or split the garden up into sections
- D: A way to recognize all gardens are the same

**Question:** Which of the following sentences below represent an appropriate usage of the term "particular"?

- A: You need to particular the garden three ways so that the plants will grow.
  - B: Particular gardens all grow the same.
  - C: All gardens are particular and the same.
  - D: All gardens need to be unique and particular based upon what they grow best.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Prairie **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in the story says, "We had made a prairie garden." What does the term prairie mean?

- A: Large trees that form a canopy for smaller plants.
- B: Tall skinny plants that does not need a lot of water, and can self-seed annually
- C: Specific flowers that must be maintained constantly
- D: Flowers and plants that require a lot of watering by individuals

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the term "prairie" correctly?

- A: The prairie houses many large trees such as the red oak.
  - B: Prairie your garden to ensure growth.
  - C: A prairie garden is low maintenance, and can be watered naturally.
  - D: The prairie is place only for prairie dogs.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Media **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says, "...Then I learned about the media." What does the term media mean in this sentence?

- A: The different forms of material a picture or painting can go on
- B: A specific plant within the garden
- C: Cameras, computers, tv's, game consoles, and/or etc.
- D: News and news reporters

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the term correctly in context to the assigned reading passage?

- A: The various types of media is causing our kids today to be lazy and obese.
  - B: The media that we used for the pictures were canvas and metal.
  - C: The media shared a story that inspired many people.
  - D: Media plants need to be well managed and manicured.
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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 - Why use the internet?

The author said, The teacher explained that, after going on the Internet to learn about the prairie, we had made a prairie garden. Why is it important for the teacher to explain that the students used the internet to learn about the prairie?

### 2 - Why does the garden have to be unique?

The author shares that, They wanted to know what was special about our particular garden, since many schools plant them. They are referring to the media. Explain why this school's garden needed to be unique for the media to come out and do a story.

### 3 - Why interview someone on the street?

The author shares that, They interviewed the principal and asked detailed questions about the garden whose idea was it, what did it cost, how big was it, and how big did we plan it would be? We would be expanding it? After that, they interviewed us, and we explained to them what we had learned through this project. They even interviewed a person on the street and asked what he thought about our garden. Explain why you think they interviewed someone on the street about the garden at the school? Why was it important for the media to do this?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here a 500 word?essay on how you believe our STEM Academy can relate all of our various classes together to create something through a school project that would be sufficient enough for news broadcasters to come out to our school and do a story on us. Please be sure to express an appropriate plan to ensure that it can be implemented into all of your classes.?Make sure to provide specific examples.

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