
A Lesson on A Better Community

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Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: vocabulary, reading, writing, A Better Community

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to teach students the importance of recycling through the use of the story "A Better Community." I want the students to learn about literature and real life applications at the same time. By reading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussion about the text, students will be able to identify the meaning of new vocabulary words and they will also know the importance of recycling.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

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.

A Better Community

by

Content: My daughter brought a note home. I looked at the note and smiled. So we will have a recycling center, I said.

She started to explain why it is important to recycle. I know, I said, but I don't have time. She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic. We would put plastic in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the Recycle Center. She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out.

It seemed like a good idea. But then the bag got full. In one week we had filled it with empty plastic bottles.

My daughter said we should look at what we use. We are using too much plastic. So we looked for ways to use less plastic.

I told my neighbor about this. She liked the idea. She started keeping her plastic in a bag. We all went together to the Recycle Center on the first Saturday. We brought our plastic.

When we got there, we saw many bags. People had brought lots of trash. They brought paper and metal, too. Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle, said my neighbor.

When we were walking back from the Recycle Center, I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had adopted the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center.

I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.

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: filled **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "In one week, we had filled it with empty plastic bottles." What does the word filled mean in this sentence?

- A: to bring together
- B: to occupy or take up
- C: to hold against
- D: to push forward

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the same form of "filled" correctly?

- A: The students were told to get in to single filled order.
- B: The woman filled her nails.
- C: the man free filled from the plane.
- D: Susan filled her cup to the top with water.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center." What does the word "litter" mean in the sentence?

- A: People
- B: Clocks
- C: Garbage
- D: Basketballs

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

- A: Empty the cats litter box.
- B: Make sure you litter you name on the paper.
- C: The cat had a litter of kittens.
- D: The litter was all over the ground.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Adopt **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: My daughter said that another class had ?adopted? the street. what does the word "adopted" mean in the sentence?

- A: to own
- B: to take on responsibility of
- C: to borrow
- D: to make equal

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "adopted" correctly in a sentence?

- A: The man adopted a puppy for his daughter.
- B: I adopted my orange juice this morning.
- C: Go away and adopted me alone.
- D: Words adopted in the dirt.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: explain **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In our story the author says "She started to 'explain' why it is important to recycle." What does the word 'explain' mean in this sentence?

- A: to tell
- B: to call
- C: to show
- D: to involve

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word 'explain' correctly?

- A: I explained my shoe.
- B: The teacher explained to me how to answer the problem correctly.
- C: The boy explained his lemonade for one dollar.
- D: The man explained down the street.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: Read and respond to the following questions in at least 100 words. Then response to two of your classmates posts in atleast 75 words.

1 - What did the daughter do to get the mother to start recycling?

She started to explain why it is important to recycle. I know, I said, but I dont have time. The mother at the beginning of the passage said that she did not have time to recycle. What did the daughter do to get her mom to start to recycle? Why did she do it?

2 - what do you think is the main purpose of the passage?

In your own words describe what the author's main purpose in writing this passage? What was the main point they were trying to get across to the audience? Use examples from the passage in your answer.

3 - Teaching a Lesson

Why do you think that it is so important to her daughter that they recycle? What lesson is she trying to teach her mom?

4 - Plastic

In the passage it states I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes. What kind of changes is the author talking about?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Answer the following questions in one or two paragraph short essay. Remember it is not about the length of your answer, it is about the content.?

1) Now that you have an idea about what recycling is and the importance of it,?what are at least three ways that you could recycle??Name specific examples of what you would do at home, school or even just around your community.

2) How do you feel about recycling? Is it important to you? Why or why not

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