



A Lesson on Columbus and the Egg by Robert Hendler

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: reading, language arts,

Lesson Description: Students will read together or aloud as a class together this passage. Then answer the questions and discuss together about selected topics.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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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.

Columbus and the Egg

by

Content: This is a story about Columbus. He was an explorer. He is the explorer who came to the Americas from Spain in 1492. This is a story about what might have happened long ago when he was back in Spain.

When Columbus came back from his trip to the Americas, many people praised him. He was made an admiral. That means he was a leader. People said what a great thing he had done. But not everyone liked him. Some were jealous of all the attention he got.

One day Columbus was at a party that a Spanish gentleman gave in his honor. People were saying, What a great discovery you have made. Several persons were present who were jealous of the great admiral's success. They were proud, conceited fellows, and they very soon began to try to make Columbus uncomfortable.

"You have discovered strange lands beyond the seas," they said, "but what of that? We do not see why there should be so much said about it. Anybody can sail across the ocean; and anybody can coast along the islands on the other side, just as you have done. It is the simplest thing in the world."

Columbus made no answer; but after a while he took an egg from a dish and said to the company: "Who among you, gentlemen, can make this egg stand on end?"

One by one those at the table tried the experiment. When the egg had gone entirely around and none had succeeded, all said that it could not be done.

Then Columbus took the egg and struck its small end gently upon the table so as to break the shell a little. After that there was no trouble in making it stand upright.

"Gentlemen," said he, "what is easier than to do this which you said was impossible? It is the simplest thing in the world. Anybody can do it -- AFTER HE HAS BEEN SHOWN HOW!"

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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: Admiral **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the passage the author states "he as made an admiral" what does the term Admiral mean?

- A: Captain
- B: Navy commander
- C: the sea
- D: crewman

Question: What is the correct use of the word admiral?

- A: I admiral her.
- B: The ship has an admiral wheel.
- C: The Admiral is leading the ship.
- D: We ate chicken admiral and peas.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: jealous **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the readings the author writes "Some were jealous of all the attention he got." what does the word "jealous" mean in the sentence?

- A: They want
- B: hate
- C: love
- D: happy

Question: Which sentence uses the word "jealous" correctly?

- A: They dance jealous over the moon.
- B: Steve is jealous of your apartment.
- C: I am jealous during the winter
- D: I once was a man of jealous might.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Explorer **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "He is the explorer who came to the Americas from Spain in 1492." What does the word "Explorer" mean in this sentence?

- A: A commander
- B: Someone who seeks out and adventures ound areas.
- C: a cook
- D: a dancer

Question: Which sentence uses the word "explorer" correctly?

- A: I am a great explorer teaching math is hard.
- B: The explorer of the dance takes center stage.
- C: The explorer of the shoe shop tries on yet another pair of shoes.
- D: The explorer of the Amazon jungle searches for a lost city.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: succeeded **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "When the egg had gone entirely around and none had succeeded, all said that it could not be done." What does the word "succeeded" mean in this sentence?

- A: It is the name of the boat.
- B: correctly done
- C: false
- D: a dance

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "Succeeded" correctly?

- A: I have succeeded my experiment was a failure.
- B: I danced and then succeeded from the north.
- C: You succeeded the movie.
- D: I have succeeded on passing my class.

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 were they jealous?

Discuss why you think the men were jealous of Columbus?

2 - Adventure Time

Just like Columbus you have been sent to explore the seas and find a new land. Why do you think people thought that what Columbus did the simplest thing in the world? DO you think it was simple and why?

3 - What is with the egg?

After standing the egg up, Columbus says, "Gentlemen," said he, "what is easier than to do this which you said was impossible? It is the simplest thing in the world. Anybody can do it -- AFTER HE HAS BEEN SHOWN HOW!

?What is the meaning of the egg?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay. What are the pros and con of being an explorer? Do not forget to provide exaples.

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