
A Lesson on More Trees

by Luis Lopez diaz

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, vocabulary, discussion question, and short essay.

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is for students to use critical thinking skills and reading skills to interpret and understand a written passage. Students will read the short story. Then, they will be asked to identify new vocabulary words, use the vocabulary learned, respond to the discussion questions, and write a short essay. Last, this lesson will strenght critical thinking, reading, and writing skills in students.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer?s purpose.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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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.

More Trees

by

Content: When my teacher asked me to write a letter to the mayor asking for a change, I thought long and hard about what I wanted to say. I considered the changes I would like to see in our community. The first thing that came to mind was that I wanted a playground. We used to have a playground, but the community got too crowded, so they built homes where the playground used to be. I would also like to have a library. We had a library once, but it burned down. People said it required too much money to rebuild it. What would the best change be?

My teacher said I need to choose just one thing I want, and write about that one thing. So after I thought about everything, I decided on one particular change I wished to see. I chose trees, because I want more trees in our neighborhood. If we have more trees, the city will be much cooler in summer.

Trees will also make the city much more beautiful, too. During wintertime, we can hang lights on the trees, which will make the city much brighter. This was a change everyone would enjoy.

I wrote my idea to the mayor, and I also told my family about it. My mother told the block club the idea, and they all liked it.

The members of the block club called a city office and requested trees to plant on our block. Although it took several weeks to get an answer, eventually the answer came. Our neighborhood received ten trees!

One Saturday, the people in the block club planted our new trees. To plant them, we needed large holes, and it was difficult work. City workers used big machines to dig them. Then, we had to water the trees. People took very great care of the trees.

The trees started out quite small, but over time they started to grow. Birds even came to nest in them, and now in the morning I can hear birds singing. I knew the trees would be pretty, but I didn't realize there would be more birds. What a difference I had made. The trees really changed our community.

Im glad I wrote the letter, and Im especially glad I told my mother my idea. I hope the mayor puts trees all over the city. We already have got them on my block, and they make the block a better place. One thing I learned is that a change starts with you.

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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: Considered **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "I considered the changes I would like to see in our community." What does the word "considered" mean in this sentence?

- A: To give up
- B: To think carefully about (something)
- C: To choose randomly
- D: To ignore

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

- A: My mom drove considered.
- B: In the morning, many students considered in the lunchroom.
- C: Jim ate too considered.
- D: Maria would never have considered back-talking to her parents.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Required **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "People said it required too much money to rebuild it." What does the word "required" mean in this sentence?

- A: To waste
- B: To inquire
- C: To have need of
- D: To work

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

- A: The work required infinite patience.
- B: The United Nations is a organization required in New York.
- C: I drive too require at night.
- D: Obama required from Harvard Law School.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Eventually **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Although it took several weeks to get an answer, eventually the answer came. What does the word "eventually" mean in this sentence?

- A: Destroy
- B: Finally
- C: First
- D: Slowly

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

- A: Eventually they began their chatter.
- B: Christmas is a eventually holiday in the United States.
- C: Lisa and I went to a eventually about animals.
- D: The library has a eventually book fair.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Crowded **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says " We used to have a playground, but the community got too crowded,..." What does the word "crowded" mean in this sentence?

- A: Spacious
- B: Empty
- C: Huge
- D: Packed

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

- A: I wish the school bus wasn't so crowded every morning.
- B: The fragrances are too crowded.
- C: I have a lot of crowded books.
- D: Carmen felt the warmth of a blush crowded up her neck.

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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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why do you think the student chose more trees?

Why do you think the student chose more trees for a change, instead of the playground and the library?

2 - Author's purpose...

In your own words, explain what it is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

3 - Like or Unlike

What did?you like about the story? Or what did not like about the story??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: If you had the opportunity to write a letter to the mayor in your city, asking for a change, what would you choose? and why? Please write a minimum of 300 words explaining why you think your community needs that change. Before you submit, revise your work for grammar errors. When you are ready to submit, use the box below to submit your assignment.

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