



## A Lesson on Making Progress by Rebecca Zito

**Grade Level:** Grade 5

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, writing, a lesson on making progress

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to provide students with reading and writing skill habits they have been practicing on a regular basis to absorb an inspirational lesson from a father's view of his son. By reading the passage, students will be able to answer questions and use discussion techniques when identifying how the father in the story has a new perspective on the world and realizes the impact children everywhere can make. When combined with a writing assignment regarding the reading, students will discover how much they learned from the passage.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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.W.5.1b: Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3b: Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description, and pacing, to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.4: Report on a topic or text or present an opinion, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

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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.

### Making Progress

by

**Content:** I have lived in Lawndale now for thirty years. In that time, I have witnessed several changes, some for the better and others for the worse. My neighborhood is a wonderful one. I have friends here and my family resides here, too. My mothers home is just two blocks away and my cousins live down the street from me.

Progress begins with hope. Thats something I learned a long time ago. You can look at things and complain, or you can ask, What can we do to make things better?.

My son came home from school in August with a plan to make things better. It was a plan his class had thought up. They decided to transform a vacant lot into a community garden. I told him that it would be much more work than he realized.

He had a dream. He wanted to have many flowers in Lawndale. He knew there were some vacant lots, but he also noticed the new buildings. He said, we are making progress, and we should help. If we turn the vacant lot across from the school into a garden, it will signify how much we care. In turn, more people will plant flowers and trees, so the community will become a really beautiful place.

I admired my sons idea. He has always been a thoughtful child. I said we would help.

His class started by clearing out the trash from the lot. They needed several garbage bags to do so, because they didnt simply clear the lot. They picked up trash from the street, too. People came by and saw the difference they had already made. I noticed after that people were not littering nearly as often. It seems they understood the idea that keeping things clean is not as difficult as clearing up all the trash if you litter frequently.

Afterwards, they planted many bulbs in the ground. I believe they planted approximately 500 bulbs. I helped, and I think I planted roughly 30 bulbs myself. This spring well see them flower, and I think that everyone in the community will be inspired.

A long time ago, someone said, It takes a village to raise a child. I think it takes a child to inspire a community. I am extremely proud of my son.

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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:** signify **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says, "If we turn the vacant lot across from the school into a garden, it will signify how much we care." What does the word "signify" mean in this sentence?

- A: Oppose
- B: Represent
- C: Withhold
- D: Invalid

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

- A: The prince bowed to signify his respect and gratitude.
  - B: The teacher told her students their parents needed to signify their papers to be returned.
  - C: The chair will signify while sitting in the living room.
  - D: The furry dog will signify during the pet show.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** inspire **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in the story says, "I think it takes a child to inspire a community." What does the word "inspire" mean in this sentence?

- A: Dishearten
- B: Diminish
- C: Discourage
- D: Encourage

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

- A: The student threw the ball down the inspire when bowling.
  - B: Jack noticed the coupon will inspire in a few days.
  - C: Sarah must be quite a woman to inspire such admiration from Lisa.
  - D: The puppy dug a hole to inspire the bone.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Lawndale **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author in our story says, "I have lived in Lawndale now for thirty years." What is the word "Lawndale" referring to in this sentence?

- A: A large front lawn
- B: A very large house
- C: A city or town
- D: A type of lawn mower

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

- A: I spilled soda on the lawndale of the living room.
  - B: Lawndale has a population of 895 people.
  - C: I used my lawndale when cutting the grass.
  - D: The monkey was caught hanging from the lawndale at the park.
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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 - Author's Purpose

What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?

### 2 - "A long time ago..."

The father says, A long time ago, someone said, It takes a village to raise a child. I think it takes a child to inspire a community. What actions took place in the story to make the father feel this way?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** For your writing assignment, you are to write and post here?in?3-4 paragraphs (minumum 350 words) on a time where you have witnessed a positive change in your community and environment through teamwork.?Make sure to provide specific examples.

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