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A Lesson on Letter from Chicago by Crystal Anthony

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: <http://google.com>

Lesson Description: The purpose of this lesson is to able students to practice their reading and writing skills. Students are requested to showcase their ability to deeply understand the text and explain their understanding in writing. This lesson allows assesses their vocabulary on a tier I and tier II level.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

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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.

Letter from Chicago

by

Content: Dear Martha,?

Today, I was plowing the new field, and I saw a meadowlark. ?I really like that kind?of bird; I love its song. ?Its a good neighbor, too. ?It eats the insects, and you know we?have too many of them. ?The meadowlark kept flying back and forth, as though it were?looking for something. ? I thought perhaps it was searching for the pond. ?We had to fill in?the pond in order to cerate more land to grow corn.?

Maybe it was looking for its nest from last year. ?Theres about ten acres of prairie?that Ive left near the road, so I thought the bird might go there. ?However, it flew away?and Im unsure where it went. ?I saw plenty of tractors, though, that were on their way to?the farms. ?Its plowing time for everyone.?

I met Mr. Thompson at the store, and ?I told him all about the meadowlark. ?He said,?long ago there were so many that you could almost hear them sing like a choir. ?It was so?pretty, he recalled, but he had yet to see any at all this year. ??

Mr. Thompson said that the more we plow, the less well see animals, except for?our cows and chickens, of course. ?He said we are going to pay the price for this one day. ?One day we will not have the birds to control the insects. ?Then those insects will be?eating our crops.?

I told him that Id heard there was a kind of spray you can buy that kills the insects. ?I mentioned that I was planning to purchase some. ?I cant afford to lose our corn crop. ?I?asked the store manager for some spray. ?I left with some clippers, that spray, and?fertilizer.?

Mr. Thompson just shook his head. ?I wish we had not made all this progress, he?said. ?Tractors are helping us grow more, but tractors are helping us get rid of nature, too. ?We have lost our prairies; ?You wont see them again.?

I got the whole field plowed today. ?Tomorrow well put in the seed. ?This is going?to be a great year. ?I hope you can come to visit ?this spring. ?Of course, well have some?work for you to do, but it will be good to be together again.?

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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: Prairie **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story it says, "There's about ten acres of prairie that I've left near the road..." What does the word prairie mean?

- A: A large ocean.
- B: A large area of level or rolling grassland.
- C: A building.
- D: An old piece of furniture.

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "prairie" correctly?

- A: The dogs love to roam on the prairie.
- B: My mom looks great in her prairie.
- C: The prairie holds bananas.
- D: Alex believes in prairie every night.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Fertilizer **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author of our story states, "I left with some clippers, that spray, and fertilizer." What does the word "fertilizer" mean in this sentence?

- A: A substance used to produce more plant life.
- B: A weapon.
- C: A piece of artwork.
- D: An article of clothing.

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

- A: Fertilizer keeps me awake at night.
- B: The fertilizer helped me pass my test.
- C: After almost fertilizer, we began to understand.
- D: The yard looks great after we used the fertilizer.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Perhaps **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of our story states, "I thought perhaps it was searching for the pond." What does the word "Perhaps" mean in this sentence?

- A: Maybe
- B: Definitely
- C: Usually
- D: Sometimes

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

- A: The winter perhaps the summer.
- B: Sometimes I fail because of perhaps.
- C: Perhaps it's because the earth is round.
- D: The story shows the perhaps of life.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Mentioned **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of our story states, "I mentioned that I was planning to purchase some." What does the word "Mentioned" mean in this sentence?

- A: Yelled
- B: Said
- C: Walked
- D: Dreamt

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

- A: Mentioned brought peace to the world.
- B: He mentioned all the way to the store.
- C: I mentioned around a bit.
- D: "Leaves are green," is all I mentioned.

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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 does Mr. Thompson say...

Mr. Thompson says, I wish we had not made all this progress. Explain what Mr. Thompson meant by this and how it is important even today.

2 - Stories theme

What is the main theme of the story A letter from Chicago? How can this theme still apply today?

3 - Authors perspective

Why didnt the author care about Mr. Thompson's warning and?what motives did the author have for continuing to disturb nature?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on?if you believe we?are ignoring humans' negative effects on nature still today.??Make sure to provide specific examples.

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