



## A Lesson on A Better Community by Carol Colvin

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, Recycling

**Lesson Description:** The goal of this lesson is to provide students opportunities to practice their close reading skills, vocabulary skills, and writing skills. The students will also learn about recycling and they will form a plan to recycle at their own home or how they can make a difference in their community.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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

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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:** Recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our passage says her daughter "thought of a way to recycle." What does the word "recycle" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To process in order to reuse materials.
- B:** To go round and round
- C:** To ride your bicycle again.
- D:** The circle of life.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "recycle" correctly?

- A:** If you think riding a bicycle is hard, try riding a recycle.
  - B:** We will recycle the same path we were on.
  - C:** At the Recycling Center the plastics go in one bin and glass items go in a separate bin.
  - D:** My dad bought me a brand new recycle for my birthday.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** In the passage the author's daughter "said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for environment when people throw it out." What does the word "environment" mean in this sentence?

- A:** A place to meet people
- B:** The earthen ground
- C:** A weather station
- D:** Swimming pool

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "environment" correctly?

- A:** The environment takes a very long time to decompose plastic.
  - B:** The environment is a great place to dance.
  - C:** Where did you put the environment this time?
  - D:** I placed the environment on the bookshelf.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Adopted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our passage says that her "daughter said that another class had "adopted" the street. What does the word "adopted" mean in the sentence?

- A:** Made a commitment
- B:** Give the street a new name
- C:** Visit the street
- D:** Bought the street

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "adopted" correctly?

- A:** Our classroom has adopted a fiddler crab as our class pet.
  - B:** Adopted is the past tense of adapt.
  - C:** Adopted is a new way to cook hotdogs.
  - D:** Adopteds are animals that hang upside down in a tree.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author in our passage says her daughter said "They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center." What does the word "litter" mean in this sentence?

- A:** Vegetables
- B:** Puppies
- C:** Trash, such as paper, cans, bottles
- D:** Money

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "litter" correctly?

- A:** The day after Halloween there is so much litter all over the sidewalks.
  - B:** We went to the store to buy a litter of soda.
  - C:** The door was open a litter.
  - D:** Litters were hanging all over the tree.
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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.

### 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.

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Task 2: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here 250?words essay on why you think recycling is important and how you would create a recycling plan for your family.?Make sure to provide specific examples, like how would you recycle plastic, paper,glass, metal?

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### Task 3: 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 - What items were the author and her daughter going to recycle?

What items were the author and her daughter going to recycle? Why did they choose this particular item??

2 - What change did the author and her daughter see?

What change did the author and her daughter see when they were walking home from the Recycle Center? What had caused the change?

3 - What do you think the author meant...

What do you think the author meant in the last paragraph of the passage, I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.

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