



Community Helpers by Tiffany Gomillion

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Critical Thinking, Open Discussion, Writing

Lesson Description: Students will read "Community Helpers". Students will then identify and define key words in a sentence. Students will discuss workers in their communities. After the discussion students will draw a picture and write a story about why they are thankful for a community worker.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2b: Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

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.

My Job

by

Content: I am a worker at the department of streets and sanitation. We take care of the streets, and the sewers, too. I go to work at midnight and I work for 8 hours. It took me a while to get used to working at night, but now I'm used to it.

Most people work during the day. They can get their job done then. Their workplace closes at night. That's called business hours. They don't have to be there to take care of things. Sewer workers have to be available 24 hours a day. You can't close our office, because someone always has to be on duty. If a sewer breaks in the middle of the night, we have to fix it then. If we don't fix it right away, the problem will get worse.

One night I was on duty and there was a problem in a community. I got a call from a homeowner, and she said that the sewer was broken. I asked her how she knew. She said there was dirty water coming back up into their street.

I didn't go to fix the problem. That's not my job. My job is to identify a problem and then figure out how to solve it. She told me about the problem. Then I looked at the map on the computer. It showed that she was right. We have sensors under the street that tell us when there is a leak. They show where it is.

I sent a team to fix the problem. Some of them were on duty. Others were off duty. I called them at home and asked them to meet the team at her street. They had to close the street for several hours while they fixed it. First they dug a hole to get to the sewer. Then they found the leak. After that they had to replace a part of the pipeline. That took a lot of work, but they got it done.

Most nights it is not that difficult to do my job. But when we have a problem, we have to get it solved right away. So that's why I'm on night duty.

My wife is a police officer. She works nights, too. She and I both know it's important to have people on duty 24 hours every day. We make sure that when you wake up in the morning the city is safe and healthy.

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: available **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "available" mean in the sentence, "Sewer workers have to be available 24 hours a day."?

- A: occupied
- B: busy
- C: reachable
- D: useless

Question: Use the word "available" correctly in a sentence.

- A: She was always available when she was asleep.
- B: He was probably too available with school.
- C: John was available writing in his book.
- D: He was available to work all the time.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: identify **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the author mean when he says, "My job is to identify a problem and then figure out how to solve it."?

- A: overlook
- B: recognize
- C: confuse
- D: miss

Question: Which sentence uses the word "identify" correctly in a sentence?

- A: She could identify all the healthy foods on the food pyramid.
- B: Tina and Tiffany are identify twin sisters,
- C: Sara slowly identify down the hallway.
- D: I have no time to identify for my test.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: sensor **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "sensors" mean in the sentence, "We have sensors under the street that tell us when there is a leak."?

- A: release
- B: detector
- C: machine
- D: ignore

Question: Which sentence uses the word "sensors" correctly in a sentence?

- A: Smell is one of the five sensors.
- B: John wrote six sensors in the paragraph.
- C: That questions makes no sensors.
- D: Motion sensors pick up movements in the house.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Community **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "community" mean in the sentence, "One night I was on duty and there was a problem in a community."?

- A: church
- B: building
- C: neighborhood
- D: bathroom

Question: Which sentence uses the word "community" correctly in a sentence?

- A: Tonight all the people in the community will have a meeting.
- B: I don't think he community his ideas clearly.
- C: A community drifted by in the bright sunny sky.
- D: The cowboy rode his community.

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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 two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Always Available

The author wrote Sewer workers have to be available 24 hours a day. Think of some jobs that require community workers to be available 24 hours a day?? Write your answer down and discuss with your partner.

2 - Community Helper

Why do you think the title of this passage is Community Helpers? Do you believe the author of this story is a community helper? In what ways is he making his community better and safer? Respond and discuss with your peers.

3 - I'll call on you

Why do you think the author called someone else to fix the problem? Use evidence from the story to support your answer

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 300 words essay on a time you needed a community helper to help you. Make sure to use vocabulary from the passage.

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