



A Lesson on Our Lemons by Allyssa Straquadine

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Our Lemons, reading, writing, discussion, comprehension

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to have students read and reread the passage, learn new vocabulary terms, form connections and discuss with their peers, and express their own personal experiences. First, students will answer questions on four vocabulary words and their meaning. By having students refer back to the text and use context clues to define specific words, they will build their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Next, students will answer three questions in a discussion post. Each question requires one response, and one reply to another peer in the discussion. By discussing critical questions, students are rereading the text and forming their own conclusions, and making connections to the text. Last, students will answer a written response. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their own life and how their experiences relate to the author's, and express themselves.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

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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.

Our Lemons

by

Content: I got up early. I promised I would help pick the lemons before I went to school. My family has more than 20 lemon trees. My father has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail. But the lemon trees help us make money.

We live in southern California. It is warm most of the time. So the lemon trees stay green all year round. We have a big grove of lemon trees.

My father says California grows the most lemons of any place in the world. Every day we check the lemons to see if they are about two inches big. When they get that big, they are ready to pick.

They still are green when we pick them. We put them into baskets. Most people think they are yellow when they grow. But they turn yellow after we pick them and put them in the baskets. There are always baskets of lemons outside our house. When they start to turn yellow, my father takes the basket of lemons into town. He sells them to stores.

The lemons grow all year. Every day, there are some to pick. So we always have a job to do. Some times of year there are more lemons. Those weeks we work all day on Saturday and Sunday to get the lemons. My father may have to make a few trips into town with the lemons.

Once my father let one lemon stay on the tree. He wanted to see how big it would get. First it turned yellow. Then it turned orange like a pumpkin. It got as big as a pumpkin, too. Finally, it was so big and heavy it fell off. I tasted it, but I didn't like it. My father said, pick them when they're green and small. They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits. You want to pick grapefruit, oranges, and lemons when they are green.

Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove. They have hundreds of trees. Workers pick them and put them into crates. Then they take them to the train station. They ship them with oranges they grow, too. They send them to far away places. By the time they get to where they are going, they turn yellow. There are people who buy them all over the world.

My mother says that lemons are great but not by themselves. She would like us to grow apples, but my father says that we can't do that, the weather is not right. But when he goes to the store he comes back with apples. Those apples grow in Washington state.

My mother says our kitchen has foods from many places. She likes to drink tea from China. She puts our lemons into it and some sugar. She says the sugar comes from Brazil. So there are three countries in that one cup.

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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: promised **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author says, "I promised I would help pick lemons before I went to school." What word also means "promised"?

- A: guaranteed
- B: disagreed
- C: stated
- D: argued

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

- A: My brother was angry he had to sit next to my sister in the car, and promised with her the whole ride to school.
 - B: We can not eat our bananas yet because they are green and still haven't promised.
 - C: Angelica promised Bobby she would bring him a snack today, and she brought Oreos.
 - D: My printer promised and now our family can not print papers.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: grove **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the author tells us, "Down the road from us is a really big lemon grove." What does the word "grove" mean?

- A: A pile of lemons
- B: A group of trees
- C: A pile of lemon trees
- D: A club for people who like lemons

Question: Which sentence below used the word "grove" correctly?

- A: On our vacation in Florida, we visited an orange grove.
 - B: Helen grove so much over summer that she was even taller than me!
 - C: My dad grove to the store to buy milk.
 - D: Mittens the cat grove at the dog in the backyard.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: citrus fruits **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: When the author was repeated what his father had said about picking the lemons when they are green, he said, "They will taste better. They are like other citrus fruits." Using context clues, what food below is considered a citrus fruit?

- A: peanuts
- B: potatoes
- C: truffles
- D: oranges

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

- A: My friend asked me if I would like to go to Citrus county mall wit her but I said no.
 - B: While Jonathon was making his own fruit juice, he made a trip to the store because the recipe called for a lot of citrus fruits.
 - C: Mary was so excited she could not citrus for five whole minutes without getting up.
 - D: I named my puppy Citrus.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: delivers **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, we learn a little bit about the authors father. He says, "My dad has a job in town. He works at the post office. He delivers mail." What does the word "delivers" mean?

- A: pick up from
- B: gather or collect
- C: bring and hand over to
- D: to make or produce

Question: Which sentence uses the word "delivers" correctly?

- A: My dog delivers at the cats outside the window that tease him.
 - B: The President delivers his speech on television tonight.
 - C: When my cat is hungry he delivers all of his food in one sitting.
 - D: Theresa has a pigeon that delivers small notes to her neighbor for her.
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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: In this discussion forum, there are three questions. Please respond to the question, and then comment on two other posts.?

1 - Home Sweet Home

Where does the author live, and what food is that area well-known for? Think about your own home. Is your state known for any specific type of food?

2 - Picking the Perfect Lemon!

How do the author and the father in the story know when the lemons are ready to be picked? What happens when they are not picked? Can they still be eaten? Refer to the text, and explain.

3 - All Around the World

The author's mother says when she makes tea she has three countries in that one cup. What does she mean by that? Tell me about your own pantry at home. Have you ever eaten something from a different country?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The family in the story we read grow lemons and sell them as a hobby and a way to make a little extra money. In one paragraph, tell me about something you and your family do together. This could be a sport, a bowling or movie night, or maybe a family business. Do you enjoy helping your parents prepare for these events? Are they rewarding? Please explain.?

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