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A Lesson on My First Baseball Game by Mishelle Ewing

Grade Level: Grade 7

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, vocabulary, essay, Baseball, Cubs

Lesson Description: In this lesson, students will analyze complex vocabulary within the passage. They will also give narration on experience they have had and express their insight on multiple discussions set up to bring out what they have learned over the course of the year on sentence structure, literacy, grammar, writing skills, and general knowledge of writing.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6-8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.3: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

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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.

My First Baseball Game

by

Content: I remember everything about my first Cubs game, although it was two years ago. My uncle came to take me to it on a Saturday in spring, a bright sunny day. He drove a great distance from Indiana to Chicago, but we did not travel in his car to Wrigley Field. We traveled by train to the ballpark because he said traffic would be challenging.

He was right about how crowded it would be; in fact when we arrived it was so crowded that it was difficult to walk from the train. I was only 10, not very tall at all, so it was hard to see over all the people who crowded the sidewalk. Finally we got to the entrance, and then we went to our seats after we handed in our tickets. We had tickets that were for seats far back, and it seemed like I climbed about 200 steps to get to them. When we got there I realized that even though we were at the upper level, I could see everything clearly, the entire field, this expansive view was much better than watching it on TV.

Then the game started, and everyone cheered when the Cubs took the field. This really was going to be a great experience, so much better than watching it on TV. The man next to me said, This is going to be the year. They are playing really well.

My uncle said to him, Lets hope this is the one. But then he whispered to me, I think he is over-confident, well have to wait and see. I am optimistic but remember last year? They started the season winning and then they had a long losing streak.

Hey, Hey, Hey! The Cub batter hit a ball that sizzled all the way to the wall.

Just then I heard Hot dogs! Peanuts! I looked and saw a vendor with a big tray hanging from his shoulders full of hot dogs in plastic wrap and bags of peanuts.

Two hot dogs, my uncle shouted, and he gave the man next to us \$4 to pass along down to the man with the hot dogs. He sent back two steaming hot dogs.

This is great, I said to my uncle as I started to munch on my hot dog.

Not so great, he said. We just struck out, this inning is not a winning one.

While I had been watching the hot dogs, the batter had misjudged the pitches and swung at them. Baseball is a game of predicting, my uncle said. The batter has to predict what the trajectory of the ball will be and determine if it will be a good one to swing at or if its going to be a mistake. Theres no certainty, its a guess; the batter has seconds to make that decision.

It continued that way for the rest of the game, with us enjoying the food, and my uncle saying maybe next time each time a player misjudged the pitch and returned to the bench. We purchased peanuts, we even got another hot dog, and I believe I had never eaten such delicious hot dogs. We hope every time a batter started out, and then were disappointed as one by one they struck out and retired back to the bench. Still, it was a remarkably pleasant day with great food, fine weather, and special time with my uncle. The final score was 7 to 0, so in conclusion it was nine innings of hoping and then losing, so we were disappointed about the result but delighted in the food and fascinated with the way each batter attempted to get a hit.

Tomorrow, theyll win, Im certain! one person exclaimed. Definitely, another replied. The pitcher tomorrow is outstanding, theyll reverse course then.

When we were returning, I asked my uncle, Why was everyone so optimistic when the score was 0 today how can they predict a winning performance tomorrow?

Thats what it means to be a Cubs fan: we believe in tomorrow. When they win, its the best, and if they lose we expect it will get better, even though experience may tell us it wont. Every year, we hope; every game we hope, and we dont abandon hope, thats loyalty. Its about supporting your team no matter what; Cubs fans are loyal.

I see what you mean. Thanks for taking me, and thanks for being loyal to me.

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: Expansive **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "When we got there I realized that even though we were at the upper level, I could see everything clearly, the entire field, this expansive view was much better than watching it on TV." What does the word "expansive" mean in this sentence?

- A: To be narrow and small
- B: To be full of richness, big, or magnificent
- C: To be limited or close
- D: To be crowded, restricted, and unimpressive

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

- A: The queen's party was expansive for the arrival of her grandchild, George.
- B: Mom packed Henry a very expansive lunch of just a half of a tuna sandwich.
- C: The town of 30 people is growing to be quiet expansive with only 5 houses in the entire town.
- D: The navy's fleet is showing to be expansive with a total of 3 ships docked at the base.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Over-confident **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: My uncle said to him, "Let's hope this is the one." But then he whispered to me, "I think he is over-confident, we'll have to wait and see. What does the word "over-confident" mean?"

- A: To not be too much or too great
- B: To be lacking of or without
- C: To be knowledgeable
- D: To be certain that something will happen or that something is true

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "over-confident" correctly?

- A: He answered the question with an over-confident reply and got the answer correct.
- B: The players seem stressed, lazy, and over-confident about this season.
- C: You can be over-confident when you're driving in a blizzard at 80mph.
- D: Johnny is very shy and over-confident about talking to new people.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Misjudged **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "While I had been watching the hot dogs, the batter had misjudged the pitches and swung at them." What does the word "misjudged" mean in this sentence?

- A: To tell a lie about someone or something
- B: To speak on behalf of someone or something correctly
- C: To have an unfair opinion about something or someone
- D: To correctly identify someone or something as a suspect of a crime

Question: Which one of these sentences uses the word "misjudged" correctly?

- A: Adam misjudged kicking the ball and didn't miss it.
- B: He misjudged the waitress and she brought his correct food.
- C: My cat misjudged his jumping ability and made it on the couch.
- D: I misjudged how long the pie would cook but it was perfect.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Optimistic **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "When we were returning, I asked my uncle, 'Why was everyone so optimistic when the score was 0 today? how can they predict a winning performance tomorrow?'" What is the meaning of the word "optimistic"?

- A: A thought that someone is being untruthful
- B: A feeling or belief that something bad will happen
- C: A feeling or belief that something good will happen
- D: A time when people are very happy

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

- A: There is growing optimistic outlook that the problem can be corrected.
- B: Most doctors were pessimistic that a cure could be found.
- C: He has an extremely negative and pessimistic attitude.
- D: She has an extremely negative and optimistic attitude.

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 - Rain or Shine, Win or Lose

What does it mean to be a Cubs fan? Explain what it means to be loyal in your own words.

2 - Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game

Have you ever failed at a task and then decide to stop trying out of fear of failing again? Describe a situation or task that you failed at and how you overcame it. What steps did you take to overcome your fear?

3 - It takes so much effort....

To get the outcome you want it might require a lot of effort to achieve the results you want. Does hardwork pay off? Do you believe that the end results will be worth the effort put into the work? Do you think practicing and preparing is worth the end result of winning the game verse losing the game? Explain.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 600 word essay on an experience you had at a sporting event. Explain three experiences that were positive and three experiences that were negative. Was this a memorable experience or not?

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