



A Lesson on Public Transportation by Jade Klosgardner

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, 5th grade, Writing, Language Arts, Public Transportation

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to invoke deep and unique ideas after reading and rereading the text. The lesson will draw from students' previous work with vocabulary, as well as promote higher order thinking in regards to the text. Students will complete four vocabulary questions, three discussion questions, and one essay question.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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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.

Public Transportation

by

Content: Transportation is how people travel. In Chicago, people travel to work in many ways. Some walk. Some drive cars. Many take a bus to work. And others take a train.

The buses and trains are part of public transportation. They are part of a system. A system is how a lot of parts work together. The parts of public transportation in Chicago are all part of the Chicago Transit Authority, or CTA. Long ago, people walked to other places when they lived here. Or they rode on horses. Today, there are thousands of people who work in public transportation.

Public means everyone, and transportation means travel. Public transportation is a way everyone can travel in Chicago. If you look at the transportation map, you will see routes. Those are the ways the buses and trains go. The people who planned the routes looked at where people live and where they want to go. Many of the routes help workers get to their jobs every day.

Transportation means work, too. There are thousands of people who work to make the transportation system work. Some are bus drivers. Those drivers need more than a drivers license. They complete special training to be drivers. That includes how to maneuver the big bus. Imagine turning a corner in a big bus. That is not easy. They need to learn how to communicate with the public, too. Many drivers face problems every day. For example, tourists from other countries may get on a bus and ask a question in a foreign language.

Trains have drivers, too. Those are called engineers. The train stays on a track, so they do not have to worry about turning corners. But they have to make sure the train moves at a safe speed. There are signals along the track that alert the driver when there is danger. The driver has to respond quickly.

There are many transportation workers you dont see but who are part of getting you places. They work in the offices where they oversee the trains and buses. They keep track of where all the trains and buses are. They watch the traffic. They watch it on computer monitors. They are not watching the cars they watch symbols on the computer screen that tell them how much traffic there is on different routes.

They plan changes in public transportation, too. The planners look at where people live. They look at the number of people who travel to work in different areas each day. They figure out if they should add more buses or trains. They figure out if they should change the route of a bus. They cant change the route of a train, but they can add more train lines. In fact, Chicago added a new line a few years ago. It is the Pink line.

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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: maneuver **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "They complete special training to be drivers. That includes how to maneuver the big bus. Imagine turning a corner in a big bus. That is not easy..." What does the word maneuver mean in this sentence?

- A: move around
- B: flip upside-down
- C: operate
- D: walk around

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

- A: Joshua uses maneuver when he works on his father's farm.
 - B: When learning to drive, it's important to first learn to maneuver your car safely.
 - C: She was afraid of Maneuver, who lived down the road in a scary house.
 - D: Mr. Johnson told his students to maneuver the passage in silence.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: oversee **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "They work in the offices where they oversee the trains and buses." What does the word "oversee" mean in this sentence?

- A: supervise
- B: drive
- C: fix
- D: ignore

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

- A: Mr. Anders couldn't oversee where he was going in the snow, so he pulled the car over.
 - B: Managers at restaurants have to oversee a lot of employees.
 - C: The oversee from a plane window is beautiful!
 - D: Bethany needed to oversee the height of the mountain before she could climb it.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: routes **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author states, "The people who planned the routes looked at where people live and where they want to go. Many of the routes help workers get to their jobs every day." What does the word routes mean in this sentence?

- A: numbers
- B: cars
- C: letters
- D: paths

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

- A: The subway takes many routes, you just have to figure out which one you need to get home.
 - B: Jessica pulled up the plants in her front yard so she could see their routes.
 - C: Mr. Avery's dentist told him he was going to need a routes canal to fix his teeth.
 - D: Mrs. Johnson's son routes for the Yankees, but her daughter routes for the Red Sox.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: The Pink Line **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: At the end of the passage, the author says, "In fact, Chicago added a new line a few years ago. It is the Pink line." Based on this sentence, what do you think "The Pink Line" is?

- A: A new airplane
- B: A new car
- C: A new train track
- D: A new city

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the phrase "The Pink Line" correctly?

- A: My new shoes are from The Pink Line.
 - B: Rebecca took The Pink Line on her way home after work.
 - C: Her favorite band is The Pink Line.
 - D: Mr. Tellez suggested that the next time you fly, you should try the airline The Pink Line.
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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 - Which transportation would you choose?

In the passage, the author talks about many different ways to get around Chicago. Choose one type of transportation from the text that you would use if you were in Chicago, and explain why based on what you read.

2 - Extra, extra, read all about it!

Imagine that you are a news editor and you were just given this passage, Public Transportation to be published in your next newspaper. Under which section would you put the article (Business, Leisure, Transportation, Weekend, etc.) and why? Use examples from the text to support your choice.

3 - If you could decide...

If you were given the option to create a new form of Public Transportation in Chicago, what would it be and why? Try and imagine other forms of travel that are different from what you've read in the passage.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing assignment, pick a city that you are familiar with, and in a minimum of 250 words describe two or more types of public transportation. It could be the city where you live now, or one that you have visited before. Use the original passage to give you an idea of how to format your essay.

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