



## A Lesson on Summer by Roberta Eagly

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** farm, road trip, family, reading, writing, vocab

**Lesson Description:** Using the text provided, students will learn vocabulary, discuss text with peers and write a small opinion essay.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1c: Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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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.

### Summer

by

**Content:** I had been looking forward to the summer all year. We would go to stay with my grandparents. They lived on a farm in Illinois. They had all kinds of things to do. We would get up early and milk the cows. Then we would feed the chickens. It was so different from living in the city. It is like making a trip between civilizations. Consider how different it is to live in different ways--the city and the farm, the rural and the urban, my brother said. He was going to college and liked to use big words like that.

The day came to go there. I was excited. So was my brother. My mother packed a lunch for us to eat along the way. Then we left. After about 3 hours we were halfway there.

But then it started to rain. The road is dangerous, my mother said. We could skid. It was hard to see where we were on the road because the rain was so heavy. This is much more than a little rain, my brother said. The forecast was for just light rain.

My mother took an exit ramp. We left the highway and stopped at a restaurant. Better safe than sorry, she said. I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.

We were waiting there for about an hour when my brother said, Lets eat lunch. We all thought that was a great idea, so we did.

Imagine long ago when pioneers lived here, my brother said. It would have taken them weeks to travel as far as we have in three hours. Just think about what life was like then. They would have been so tired. They would have been hot and hungry. We have gone about 120 miles. And we are comfortable. We have air conditioning and restaurants.

There have been so many changes that make a difference to how people travel, my brother said. Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars.

But that is what we have when we are at the farm, Mother replied. That is how your grandparents live. They dont have any cell phones, and they just have that slow old truck.

Just then the rain stopped. We finished our lunch and then were back on the road. Then we drove a long while to get us to the farm.

When we arrived, everyone was glad to be at the end of this trip and at the beginning of a great summer. Now we will have a great summer, my mother said. I agreed. This would be another good time.

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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:** "the rural and the urban" **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The story states "the rural and the urban" The word "rural" means?

- A: in the country
- B: in the city
- C: in the air
- D: in the water

**Question:** The word "rural" is used correctly in which sentence below?

- A: I have rural flavored ice cream.
  - B: My favorite activity is rural.
  - C: I live in a rural town.
  - D: I used rural today.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** the rural and the urban **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The story uses the phrase \"the rural and the urban\", What does the word \"urban\" mean?

- A: In the water.
- B: In the country.
- C: In the city.
- D: In the air.

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word \"urban\" correctly.

- A: I listened to urban today.
  - B: I live in an urban town.
  - C: I played urban today.
  - D: I have lots of urban.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** ?I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.? **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author uses the phrase ?I will call and tell them to anticipate a late arrival.? What does "anticipate" mean?

- A: a lot
- B: very tall
- C: smell
- D: wait

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "anticipate" correctly?

- A: After a test I anticipate my grade.
  - B: Anticipate is a nice color.
  - C: I pick anticipate to play.
  - D: How anticipate are you?
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** ?The forecast was for just light rain." **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Using the phrase ?The forecast was for just light rain.? What does the word "forecast" mean?

- A: Run
- B: Jump
- C: Predict/guess
- D: Book

**Question:** Which sentence uses the word "forecast" correctly?

- A: This forecast taste great.
  - B: I forecast a good day.
  - C: My forecast smells funny.
  - D: I live in the forecast over there.
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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 - "I had been looking forward to the summer all year."

The author begins the story by saying I had been looking forward to the summer all year long. ? What do you think they are so excited about?

2 - ?Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars.?

The author's brother states?Imagine a world without cell phones, air conditioning, and fast cars. ? ?Discuss what you think life would be like without electrotics and vehicles.

3 - The grandparents home.

The author talks a lot about their grandparents' farm and home. ? What do you think their place looks and feels like??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Have you ever been to a farm? ?What would you like or dislike about living on a farm? ?Tell me about it in 400 words or more. ?Make sure to provide specific examples.

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