



A Lesson on The Quarterback by Ashley Dennison

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, writing, the quarterback, lesson, teamwork

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use the reading and writing habits they've been practicing on a regular basis to absorb lessons from Jos's interactions and experiences. By reading and rereading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussion about the text, students will identify how and why Jos learned the importance of teamwork. When combined with writing about the passage, students will discover how much they learn from memoir.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

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.

The Quarterback

by

Content: Jos was a quarterback at his old school. The team had won 8 of its 10 last games. He knew how to play very well. He had to transfer to a new school this year because his family had moved to the other side of the city.

When he got to school the first day, he went to see the football coach. He said, I want to be quarterback. ?

You're late, the coach replied. We had tryouts last spring. We already have a quarterback. We even have a backup. So you can come to practice, but we don't have a place for you on the team.

Jos was discouraged. He told his stepfather that he wanted to go back to his old school. But his stepfather said that they could not move back there because his new job was on this side of the city. Your mother's family is near here, too, and we need to go to help them sometimes now that your grandmother is sick.

Jos had not made any friends, and he sat alone in his room. He would text his old friends at his old school, and they would text back with news. But that just made him more unhappy.

Then he went to the first practice. The coach said, Jos, help with the warm-up. Let's see what you can do.

Jos played with the team, practicing, just throwing passes at first. Then the coach put him into some plays. Meanwhile, Jos was watching Mason, the quarterback. He's not that good, he said. I could do better. But he knew he was wrong. Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately.

Then Mason turned to him. Let's give Jos a chance. So Jos did take the quarterback role for one play. As they played, he realized that it wasn't the quarterback who made the play work. It was the whole team. The team took the ball he passed and made a touchdown. All he had done was make the first pass.

After the practice, he went to the coach. He told him that he would be proud to be able to help the team. He said that he did not expect to be on the team but wanted to be with them. I just love football, he said. I didn't realize until today that I just want to be part of the game.

The coach asked him to be part of their practices from then on. Next year, Jos, we will have a position for you.

By the end of the season, Jos had many friends. One of his best friends was Mason. ?

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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: discouraged **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "Jos? was discouraged." What does the word "discouraged" mean in this sentence?

- A: determined
- B: fearful
- C: less hopeful or confident
- D: happy

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

- A: Sally was so happy that she felt discouraged.
- B: After losing the game, Mark was discouraged.
- C: Brandon received an "A" on his test and felt discouraged.
- D: After winning two games, Alicia was discouraged.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: realize **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "I didn't realize until today that I just want to be part of the game." What does the word "realize" mean in this sentence?

- A: doubt
- B: understand clearly
- C: wonder
- D: try

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

- A: She liked to realize blue as her favorite color.
- B: Brian always liked to realize what his life would be like.
- C: I realize now that she is right.
- D: Susan always tried to realize the game.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: quarterback **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Jos? was a quarterback at his old school." What does the word "quarterback" mean in this sentence?

- A: a baseball player who catches the ball
- B: a popular person
- C: a best friend
- D: a football player who usually calls the signals for the plays

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

- A: Alex and Reggie are best quarterbacks.
- B: Russell is the quarterback of his football team.
- C: Fred wants to be the quarterback on his baseball team.
- D: Rachel wants her quarterback.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: accurately **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately." What does the word "accurately" mean in this sentence?

- A: better
- B: incorrect
- C: errorless
- D: faster

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

- A: Anastasia accurately liked the pie.
- B: He threw the ball more accurately after practicing.
- C: There was an accurately book at the store.
- D: Lisa did not like accurately questions on her test.

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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 - Why was Jos discouraged?

The author of our story says, Jos was discouraged. Why was Jos discouraged?

2 - Why did Jos say the quarterback was not that good?

While Jos was watching Mason play he said that Mason was not that good and that he could do better. Then the author in our story tells us, But he knew he was wrong. Mason could throw the ball farther, faster, and more accurately. If Jos knew that he was wrong, why did Mason say that the quarterback was not good?

3 - Why did Jos's old friends make him more unhappy?

The author in our story says, Jos had not made any friends, and he sat alone in his room. He would text his old friends at his old school, and they would text back with news. But that just made him more unhappy. Why would his friends texting him news make him more unhappy?

4 - How do you think Jos had so many friends by the end of the season?

The author in our story says, By the end of the season, Jos had many friends. One of his best friends was Mason. How do you think Jos made so many friends? Why do you think Mason is one of his best friends?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing assignment, in 4-5 sentences, explain the lesson that Jose learned. Submit your assignment in the box below.

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