



A Lesson on A Better Community by Lauren Panek

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Writing, Recycling, Community

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to allow students to practice their reading and writing skills. By reading and rereading the passage closely along with vocabulary, reading, writing and discussion questions, the students will better understand the importance of recycling. The students will also gain knowledge about building a better community and the importance of working together.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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.

A Better Community

by

Content: My daughter brought a note home. I looked at the note and smiled. So we will have a recycling center, I said.

She started to explain why it is important to recycle. I know, I said, but I don't have time. She thought of a way to recycle. She set up a bag in the kitchen. She said it would be for plastic. We would put plastic in there. Then once a month we would take the plastic to the Recycle Center. She said that plastic takes us lots of energy to make. And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out.

It seemed like a good idea. But then the bag got full. In one week we had filled it with empty plastic bottles.

My daughter said we should look at what we use. We are using too much plastic. So we looked for ways to use less plastic.

I told my neighbor about this. She liked the idea. She started keeping her plastic in a bag. We all went together to the Recycle Center on the first Saturday. We brought our plastic.

When we got there, we saw many bags. People had brought lots of trash. They brought paper and metal, too. Now that we have this center, it is easier to recycle, said my neighbor.

When we were walking back from the Recycle Center, I saw a change. The street was cleaner. Most days I see trash in the street. People litter. But there was no litter today. My daughter said that another class had adopted the street. They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center.

I said this is really big. It is about more than plastic. It is about lots of changes.

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: Recycle **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in the story says "She thought of a way to recycle." What does the word "recycle" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To put items in a garbage can
- B:** To collect items to be reused
- C:** To place items in order
- D:** To move items out of the way

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

- A:** It is important that we recycle our used plastic water bottles
 - B:** Remember to recycle your used paper in the trash can
 - C:** Always recycle your ice cream
 - D:** Make sure to recycle your uncle
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Environment **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In our story the author says "And she said that it is hard for the environment when people throw it out." What does the word "environment" mean in this sentence?

- A:** The Moon
- B:** The animals around the world
- C:** People from around the world
- D:** The surroundings in which something lives in

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

- A:** Logan bought an environment at the store
 - B:** The ocean is an environment for certain fish
 - C:** Jessica asked for an environment for her birthday
 - D:** Please bring your environments with you to class tomorrow
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "They were picking up litter there and taking it to the Recycle Center." What does the word "litter" mean

- A:** People
- B:** Food
- C:** Trash
- D:** Pets

Question: Which one of the following sentences below uses the word "litter" correctly

- A:** Do not forget to mail your litter
 - B:** Remember to buy your litter
 - C:** Do not litter in the community
 - D:** Wrap the litter and put it with the other gifts
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Adopt **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "My daughter said that another class had 'adopted' the street." What does the word "adopt" mean in this sentence?

- A:** To play
- B:** To take responsibility for
- C:** To cross from one side to the other
- D:** To clean

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

- A:** Be sure you adopt the food on the way home
 - B:** Please adopt the door on the way out
 - C:** Remember to adopt before school
 - D:** The parents chose to adopt the dog
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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 is it important?

Why is it important for people to recycle?

2 - What else can be recycled?

What other items could the mother, daughter and neighbor try to recycle and bring along with them to the recycling center?

3 - What can the community do?

How can communities come together to help recycle?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write about the importance of recycling and at least 3 ways that you and your family could recylce at home.??

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