



A Lesson on A Better Community by Jordan Boyer

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Recycle, Environment, Plastic, Community, Reading, Writing

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to integrate reading and writing. Students will read and reread the passage "A Better Community." Following the passage, students will engage in vocabulary and meaning questions found in the passage. Through a series of analytical questions, students will identify and comprehend the meaning of the passage and the author's purpose.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.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.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

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: Recycling **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the following sentence what does the word "recycling" mean? ?So we will have a recycling center,? I said.

- A: Shopping
- B: Using materials again
- C: Going on a bike ride
- D: Pet shop

Question: Which one of the sentence below uses the word "recycling" correctly?

- A: I am recycling this used can.
 - B: John is recycling his bike.
 - C: Martha's mom is recycling the laundry.
 - D: My dad is recycling to work.
-

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Energy **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "She said that plastic takes us?lots of energy to make." What does the word "energy" mean in this sentence?

- A: a task
- B: money
- C: people
- D: ability to do work

Question: Which one on the following sentence below uses the word "energy" correctly?

- A: Running for a long time takes energy.
 - B: Energy is going to the pool.
 - C: My dad gave energy to the shop owner.
 - D: Kim put energy into a water bottle.
-

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Litter **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "But there was no litter today." What does the word "litter" mean in this sentence?

- A: Animal
- B: Trash
- C: Plastic
- D: Metal

Question: Which one of the following sentence uses the word "litter" correctly?

- A: This litter is moving to New York.
 - B: I will litter in my grandma's pool.
 - C: There is unwanted litter in the park.
 - D: Mom will litter in her high heels.
-

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Adopted **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: My?daughter said that another class had 'adopted' the street." What does the word "adopted" mean?

- A: Performing a dance
- B: Walked
- C: Accept responsibility
- D: Picked

Question: Which one of the following sentence uses the word "adopted" correctly?

- A: James adopted a sickness.
 - B: I have adopted a new magic trick.
 - C: I have adopted to the new environment.
 - D: My sister adopted a puppy as her own pet.
-

=====

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 and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Author's meaning

Do you think that the author of A Better Community likes to recycle? Explain your answer.

2 - Hard for the environment

Why do you think that plastic is hard for the environment?

3 - Explain the Title

In your own words, explain why this passage is titled A Better Community? Use knowledge from the passage and questions.

=====

=====

Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: For your writing activity, explain why recycling is important to the environment. Provide two examples of how you can recycle either at home or at school. Write a minimum of 250 words. Use new vocabulary words such as recycling, environment, adopted, and litter. Submit your assignment using the box below.

=====