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A Lesson on My Job by Joshua Knight

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: My Job, Department, Sanitation

Lesson Description: Students will use the short story "My Job" to learn new vocabulary words as well as answer open-ended questions about the text. Students will also form opinions on ideas from the text and back their opinions up with evidence from the story.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3: Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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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.

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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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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.9: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4a: Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons 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. 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.

My Job by

Content: I am an employee at the department of streets and sanitation. Our department takes care of the streets, and we take care of the sewers, too. I go to work at midnight, and I work an eight-hour shift. It took me a while to get accustomed to working at night, but now I'm used to it.

Most people work in the daytime and are able to complete their job during that time. Their workplace closes at night, which called business hours. They don't have to be at their workplace day and night to take care of things. However, sewer workers need to be available 24 hours a day. You can't close our office. Someone has to be on duty at all times. If a sewer breaks in the middle of the night, we have to fix it right then. If we don't repair it right away, the problem will continue to get worse.

One night I was on duty and there was a problem in a nearby community. I received a call from a homeowner who informed me that the sewer was broken. I asked her how she knew. She told me there was dirty water coming back up into their street.

I didn't go to fix the problem, because that's not actually my job. My job is to identify a problem and then figure out how to solve it. The homeowner told me about the problem, and then I looked at the map on the computer. It showed that she was right. We have sensors under the street, so that we know when there is a leak. The sensors confirm the leak.

I dispatched a team to fix the problem. Some of them were on duty, but others were off duty. I telephoned them at home and asked them to meet the team on the homeowners' street. The workers had to close the street for several hours while they repaired the sewer. First, they dug a hole to get to the sewer, and then they discovered the leak. After that, they had to replace a part of the pipeline. That took a lot of hard work, but they were able to finish it.

Most nights it is not particularly difficult to do my job. However, when we have a problem, we have to get it solved immediately, which is why I'm on night duty.

My wife is a police officer. She works nights, too. She and I both know it's important to have people on duty 24 hours every day. We make sure that when you wake up in the morning the city is safe and healthy.

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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: Accustomed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "It took me a while to get accustomed to working at night, but now I'm used to it." What does the word "accustomed" mean in this sentence?

- A: To be awake
- B: To be taught
- C: To get new customers
- D: To get used to

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

- A: My manager got accustomed when she made a customer at the store happy .
- B: I got accustomed to waking up early for high school after my alarm went off at 6:15 every day for the first two weeks.
- C: It is accustomed to stand when the Pledge of Allegience is playing.
- D: My parents bought me accustomed guitar for my birthday.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Homeowner **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "I received a call from a homeowner who informed me that the sewer was broken." What does the word "homeowner" mean in this sentence?

- A: Someone who owns a home
- B: Someone who is in the middle of buying a home
- C: Someone who loves homes
- D: Someone who is visiting their relatives

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "homeowner" correctly?

- A: I am a homewoner because I go to people's homes and mow their yards.
- B: My mom is a homeowner because she pays rent for the house that we live in every month.
- C: My mom is a homeowner because she helps other people buy houses.
- D: I am a homeowner because I love homes.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Dispatched **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: Our author says "I dispatched a team to fix the problem." What does the word "dispatched" mean in this sentence?

- A: To yell at people to do their job
- B: To ask people to do their job
- C: To send people to do their job
- D: To find people to do a job

Question: Which of the following sentences uses the word "dispatched" correctly?

- A: My friend dispatched me by calling me on the phone to talk.
- B: I dispatched home after I hurt my knee and needed a bandage.
- C: The police officer was dispatched to the bank after there had been reports of a robbery.
- D: I was dispatched to my job after I dropped my brother off at school.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Immediately **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "However, when we have a problem, we have to get it solved immediately, which is why I'm on night duty." What does the word "immediately" mean in this sentence?

- A: At night
- B: During the day
- C: At any time
- D: Right away

Question: In which of the following sentences is the word "immediately" used correctly?

- A: When I fell off my bike and scraped my elbow, my mom immediately put a bandage on it to keep it from getting infected.
- B: I immediately knew I passed the spelling test because I guessed my score.
- C: The caterpillar immediately turned into a butterfly after being in a cocoon for months.
- D: The girl went from New York to California immediately after her airplane took off into the sky.

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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 - Narrator and Wife

How are the narrator and his wife similar? How are they different?

2 - Process of Problem-Solving

What are the steps the narrator goes through when he receives the report of a problem? Be thorough and explain exactly what he does after receiving the phone call from the homeowner.

3 - Feelings about the Job

Does the narrator like his job? Explain why or why not.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a 500 word essay on why you think the narrator's job is important for the health and safety of his city. Use examples fromt the text as well as real life examples to support your opinions.

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