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A lesson on responsibility within a community by Raven Brown-campbell

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Writing, Discussion, Community, Responsibility, Vocabulary, Changing Our Street

Lesson Description: The goal for this lesson is for students to be able to read and write critically. The students will be asked to read a short passage, answer multiple choice questions on vocabulary, then answer either in groups and/or on paper, open ended discussion question, and to complete the lesson write 2-3 paragraphs that apply the information to real life. This will allow students to understand what a community and responsibility is.

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.3.8: Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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.

Changing Our Street

by

Content: There were many people driving down our street. They drove too fast, and my mother was worried. She thought they might hurt someone. She called the alderman's office. The alderman is the representative of your part of Chicago, a person who works in the government. Voters elect the aldermen, and anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem. My mother had called them before when there was a problem with trash collection.

The alderman came to look at our street. He said, Yes, I see the problem. But we need evidence so that I can persuade the office of Streets and Sanitation to come and fix it. I'll be following up. After he left we thought we would not get any help quickly, but we were wrong. The next day someone came to our street with a camera, and he stayed all day. It looked like he was taking photos of the street. I went to ask him what he was doing, and he explained that he had a device that was measuring the speed of cars. He said that he had already found ten cars speeding on our street. The next day a police officer came. She gave tickets to drivers who were speeding.

Then one week later workers came, and they installed a stop sign at the corner. Now cars would have to stop there. My mother felt relieved that this had happened. She said, See what one phone call can do? But the cars still were going too fast. They would drive fast and then stop quickly, so it still was dangerous. We did not expect that a police officer could stay there all day to give drivers tickets. We need to make another call, I said. This time I called the alderman's office.

The next week workers came again, and this time they came in a big truck. They drew lines on the street. Then they poured concrete where the lines were. They worked all day, and at the end of the day, we had a way to slow the cars down. We had speed bumps.

Someone invented speed bumps. When you drive on a street and get to a speed bump you have to slow down. If you don't slow down, you have a problem. Your car rocks up and down, and that can even knock some part off the car.

This story is part of our family's history, now. We believe that we are responsible for our street and that other people should be responsible, too. My mother got a change made with one phone call, and then I got more changes with another call. We have made our street a safer place because we took action.

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: Community **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: 'Anyone in the "community" can contact the alderman when there is a "community" problem.' What does the word "community" mean?

- A: Someone by themselves
- B: Reaching away
- C: A group or a body
- D: A place

Question: Which sentence is the proper way of using "community"?

- A: The boy sat in the corner to be a part of the community.
- B: After eating, the community barked.
- C: The community is a great season of the year.
- D: The whole third grade community believed they should get longer recess.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Elect **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "Voters elect the aldermen..." What does the word elect mean in this sentence?

- A: Run away from
- B: Vote for
- C: Drive to
- D: Eat too much

Question: Which sentence uses the word "elect" correctly?

- A: Go into the kitchen, and elect yourself a sandwich.
- B: To turn the television you have to press elect.
- C: My parents want to elect President Obama again.
- D: I elect my teeth in the morning with my tooth brush.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Relieved **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "relieved" mean in this sentence, 'My mother felt relieved that this had happened.'?

- A: Thankful
- B: Upset
- C: Angry
- D: Rude

Question: Which sentence uses the word "relieved" correctly?

- A: I felt relieved when I dropped my ice cream on the ground.
- B: I was relieved when I found my favorite doll.
- C: I felt relieved when I fell and hurt myself.
- D: I felt relieved when I got sick and could not play with my friends.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Measuring **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word "measuring" mean in this sentence, 'he had a device that was measuring the speed of cars.'?

- A: Counting a distance
- B: Running downhill
- C: Biting a carrot
- D: Coloring a book.

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

- A: I was measuring the smell of a flower.
- B: I was measuring how dogs eat.
- C: I was measuring how my hair smelt.
- D: I was measuring how far I could jump.

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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 - Speeding on their street...?

Why do you think the author and his/her mom wanted to stop the speeding on their street? Explain your answer.

2 - Police officers not doing enough?

Why do you think calling the alderman's office directly make a bigger difference than just letting police officers hand out speeding tickets? Do you think the author could have done something else?

3 - Do you think understanding how a community..?

Do you think understanding how a community works is important? Explain your answer in 2-3 sentences.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Explain in two paragraphs the importance of the title of the reading Changing Our Street, and how you could change your street for the better?

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