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A Lesson on Changing Our Street by Daniela Mazariegos

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours

Lesson Keywords: Reading, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Critical thinking

Lesson Description: In this lesson, the teacher will read aloud a short passage to the whole class. Students will then read it once more independently and answer the following questions based on vocabulary from the text. They will also answer discussion questions about the passage. Before moving onto the writing activity, the teacher will bring the class back together to talk about everyone's responses to the discussion questions. The teacher will also introduce the writing activity prompt at this point so students can start brainstorming for their response.

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.

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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.

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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).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.4a: Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

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

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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.

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: Relieved **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "My mother felt relieved that this had happened." What does the word relieved mean in this sentence?

- A: sad
- B: relaxed
- C: worried
- D: fixed

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

- A: I was relieved to here that my sister had caught the flu.
- B: My mother was relieved to hear that I got home safely.
- C: We were relieved to go to the hospital.
- D: After the accident, our family was relieved to hear that we had been injured.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Collection **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says, "My mother had called them before when there was a problem with trash collection." What does the word "collection" mean in this sentence?

- A: spill
- B: separation
- C: gathering
- D: scatter

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

- A: I have a collection of toys in my closet.
- B: They needed to catch up on their collection.
- C: After the movie they offered us a collection.
- D: The collection was brightly colored and vibrant.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: elect **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says, "Voters elect the aldermen, and anyone in the community can contact the alderman when there is a community problem." What does the word "elect" mean in this sentence?

- A: ignore
- B: reject
- C: join
- D: choose

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

- A: She elected too much food.
- B: I elect the last book on the shelf
- C: He was afraid so he hid under the elect.
- D: Everything was elected when my mother got home.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: representative **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says, "The alderman is the representative of your part of Chicago, a person who works in the government." What does the word representative mean in this sentence?

- A: a person chosen to speak and act on behalf of others
- B: an example
- C: a sample
- D: a messenger

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

- A: I want a representative to take me to the park.
- B: There are twenty representatives that live in my neighborhood.
- C: I'm calling as a representative of the person you are seeking.
- D: That representative felt lonely at school.

Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each.?

1 - No help for us

The narrator says in the story, After he left we thought?we would not get any help quickly.? Why do you think they thought this?

2 - We need to make another call

After the police officer came out, the narrator said, We need to make another?call. What caused the narrator to make another call?

3 - Changing our street

The title of this story is Changing our street. Explain why the author chose this title and give examples.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write two paragraphs why you think it is important to take action in certain situations. Support your opinion with examples from the story. What do you think would have happened if the narrator and mother did not call the alderman?

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