



A Lesson on The Big Game by Shannon Stassin

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: quarterback, football, game

Lesson Description: This lesson includes material pertaining to reading comprehension, vocabulary usage, critical thinking questions, and an essay prompt on the story "A Lesson on The Big Game". Students will individually complete the assigned reading then answer vocabulary questions, discussion questions and complete an essay prompt.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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.W.3.3b: Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4d: Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

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.

The Big Game by

Content: It was Friday. The football game was Saturday and we were very excited. My brother was going to be the quarterback for our team. It was the first time he would be in that position. He had been hoping to be quarterback ever since he joined the team. He said, That's the big job. That's the one that makes the big difference.

My mother said, Be careful, son. That's the big target, too. You know the other players want to sack you. You can get hurt.

Dont worry; Im tough and Im fast. Plus, I have great players who will block them.

That night I couldnt sleep well. I worried about my brother. My mother was right. He could get hurt.

The next morning, he left early to get to the game. When we got there, it was about to start. The team ran out on the field. He looked great. He saw us and waved.

Then it started. They were playing hard. One player in particular from the other team kept rushing at him. Then it happened. He knocked my brother down. My brother was slow to get up. My mother was screaming. The coach ran out on the field. He told my brother to take some time on the bench. He was afraid he had been hurt.

My mother ran down to check on my brother. But all he did was smile. Its just a bruise. Im fine. And dont worry, Ill be back. This is great. I love leading the team.

My mother was so worried then, but my brother was right. He plays quarterback every Saturday. She cant go to the games. She just waits at home and hopes to see him walking in smiling.

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: quarterback **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: My brother was going to be the quarterback for our team. What does the word "quarterback" mean in this sentence?

- A: coin
- B: player on a football team
- C: student
- D: jumping

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

- A: A quarterback gave a great tour at the history museum.
- B: The quarterback made the winning touchdown for the team.
- C: During the hockey game, the quarterback scored a goal.
- D: The laundry needed to be quarterback by the end of the day.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: target **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: That's the big target, too. What does the word "target" mean in this sentence?

- A: a person, object, or place selected as the aim of an attack
- B: a piece of candy
- C: a family member
- D: school

Question: Which one of the sentences used the word "target" correctly?

- A: The rabbit was a target for the wolf.
- B: You need to study hard for the target on Friday.
- C: Eating target is the best!
- D: Tomorrow Sally and John will go and target in the pool for swim class.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: knocked **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: He knocked my brother down. What does the word "knocked" mean in this sentence?

- A: eat
- B: sleep
- C: pushed over, topple over, shove
- D: write

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

- A: She knocked over the vase accidentally.
- B: The knocked ate her food quickly.
- C: Can you repeat the knocked again?
- D: All of the knocked loved their toys given to them on Christmas.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: football **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The football game was Saturday and we were very excited. What does the word "football" mean in this sentence?

- A: silverware
- B: piece of clothing
- C: type of drink
- D: team sport

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

- A: The football game went into over time.
- B: Use a pen and football on the class assignment.
- C: I love eating football sandwiches!
- D: The football and his sister laughed at the movie.

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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 - In your opinion. . .

In your opinion, should the main character's brother continue to play football??

2 - In the story. . .

In the story, the quarterback's brother is unable to sleep the night before the big game. Why was he worried, and how did he feel by the end of the story?

3 - Why do you feel. . .

After the quarterback got knocked down in the game he stood right back up and eventually finished the game. Why do you think the quarterback did that, and continue to play game after game?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The quarterback showed courage and sportsmanship when he returned to the field. ?Describe in two paragraphs a time when you displayed courage. ?This can be in a sport, in school, etc. ?Be creative with your response!

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