



A Lesson on Changing Our Street by Jennifer Grimsland

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 2 hours 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Community, alderman, fixing problems and finding solutions.

Lesson Description: Reading and understanding text, showing comprehension by answering vocabulary questions (i.e. learning the meaning of new words and how to use them) and questions regarding the events in the story. Solving problems by finding solutions to fix them.

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.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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

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.3.1c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4a: Use sentence-level context 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 (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: evidence **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the alderman tells the author that they need evidence to show the office of Streets and Sanitation so they will fix the trash problem. What does the word "evidence" mean?

- A: A letter.
- B: Facts or information showing that something is true.
- C: The outcome of a science experiment.
- D: A phone call from someone explaining the problem.

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

- A: Don't worry about the evidence, my mom said she couldn't do it.
- B: The evidence I saw yesterday was so funny!
- C: When my friend brought me the evidence, I ran away.
- D: There was enough evidence to prove I didn't tell a lie.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: alderman **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 "alderman" mean?

- A: An elected member of a community in some cities who works in the government.
- B: Another name for the Mayor.
- C: A high ranking police officer
- D: Who the author's mother works for.

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

- A: The alderman who comes and picks up my trash is a really nice man.
- B: My mom invited the alderman over for dinner tonight since he loves to cook.
- C: The alderman elected into office in my city is really good at fixing community problems.
- D: The alderman said I didn't have to turn in any of my homework.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: persuade **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the story, the alderman says "But we need evidence so that I can persuade the office of Streets and Sanitation to come and fix it." What does the word "persuade" mean?

- A: To inform someone of certain facts.
- B: To convince someone of something.
- C: To explain how something works.
- D: Another word for telling a lie.

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

- A: My friend had to persuade me that two plus two equals four.
- B: I told my teacher to persuade me to go to the doctor because I wasn't feeling well.
- C: Why can't the cat persuade the squirrel to climb the tree?
- D: In order to persuade my sister to let me use her toys, I had to promise to do her homework.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: sanitation **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In the story, the alderman tells the author that he has to persuade the Streets and Sanitation offices to fix their problem. What does the word "sanitation" mean?

- A: Public health related issues such as clean drinking water and garbage removal.
- B: A department that helps to take care of putting speed bumps in communities.
- C: The type of work that the alderman takes care of.
- D: A very dangerous poison.

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

- A: I took my car to the sanitation department to get my breaks fixed.
- B: My dad builds toys for schools in sanitation.
- C: Sanitation is a big problem in my house.
- D: I had to call the sanitation department because the water coming out of my kitchen faucet was light brown in color.

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Task 2: Writing Activity

Instructions: In *Changing Our Streets*, the author tells us how they helped to make their community safer by having speed bumps put on their road to slow down the drivers who were speeding. Tell me about an issue in your community that you feel is dangerous and what changes you would make to help your community be a safer place. Remember to support your opinion with facts and reasons and be sure to use key words and phrases that connect your opinions and reasons (Ex. because, therefore, since, etc.). Also, be sure to include an introduction and conclusion to your writing. Your writing should be no less than 150 words.

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